

THE GATEWAY

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Students' Union elections are coming up fast, with voting happening on 3-4 March. See pages four to six for candidate interviews, with more to come on Tuesday.

SUB music store closing to prevent financial losses

CAITLIN GRANSHAW
Associate News Editor

The University Bookstore's music section, Hard Drive, is quietly fading away after several years of operation and undergoing a move to SUB from HUB last year in an attempt to boost sales.

"It's getting very risky to stay in retail like this. With the amount of illegal downloading, and even legal downloading, it's just made a major impact on this market," explained Hard Drive manager Ron Dejong.

"It's a very tense time. Record labels are shaking in their boots. We were still a good record store and are still doing well, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's going to stay that way."

RON DEJONG,
HARD DRIVE MANAGER

Nearby, customers peruse shelves of CDs. Aside from signs boasting 25 per cent off, nothing more suggests that the music store will disappear within a matter of months.

"It's unfortunate. I mean, I really enjoy doing this, and I really enjoyed serving students in their music needs. It's really unfortunate. I know the Bookstore feels it was an unfortunate move for them to do this, but it's also a very prudent thing to do this now, because of the nature of the industry," Dejong continued.

"It's a very, very tense time. Record

labels are shaking in their boots. We were a good record store and are still doing well, but that doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to stay that way. And things are looking bleak for the future for this kind of record store."

The store specializes in unusual music and does well in special orders. "We're a deep, heavy catalogue store, as opposed to just a top, mainstream kind of thing. And that's sort of what set us out from the other record stores in this city," said Dejong.

As a university business, the record store faced many limitations as to where it could advertise, explained Dejong, which in his view didn't help the situation.

Bookstore Director Todd Anderson explained that the closure will not result in layoffs, and stressed that Hard Drive's closure is the result of a sale "plateau" and an effort to avoid becoming part of a negative industry-wide trend.

"Across the music industry, you can see declining sales, declining margins. Record companies haven't adapted their pricing to what's going on in the industry. Their revenues are declining, and yet they maintain the same price point," said Anderson. "Even when Universal dropped CD prices by a couple of dollars, there's the law of diminishing returns. Soon you're going to have a price point that the consumers aren't going to buy, especially if they can buy it online through downloading. That's what it is. We saw some reasonable growth the first couple of years; after that, it plateaued."

As a supplement to textbook sales, Anderson stressed that the music section, along any sideline, is only beneficial if profits continue to grow.

PLEASE SEE HARDDRIVE • PAGE 3

Error in new grading system may be lowering student marks

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

After almost three years of assurance from the University administration of a smooth transition, a flaw was found in the new four-point grading system that is making some of this year's grades lower than expected.

The new letter grading system went under review in January and, thanks to tips from the science and engineering faculties, a considerable discrepancy was discovered in the grade allocations compared to years past.

"While we had approximately the same number of high marks and low marks that we had last year, the effect on students was very different," explained U of A Vice-Provost Gretchen Hess. "There were many

more at the 'required to withdraw' level and not as many students at first-class standing."

"If you have an A and an F in [the four-point] system you're half way up the scale. In the old system, if you had a three and a nine then you've got a six, which is two thirds of the way up the scale."

GRETCHEN HESS,
U OF A VICE-PROVOST



SHAWN BENBOW

U of A Vice-Provost Gretchen Hess discusses the new grading system.

Still, the question remains how the discrepancy occurred. Hess explained that the implementation committee misjudged how much pull a zero, or F, would have on a student's overall average.

With the old nine-point system, there were three levels of F: 3, 2, and 1. The higher the level of F, the less effect it had on a student's grade point average (GPA).

"If you have an A and an F in [the four-point] system you're halfway up the scale. In the old system, if you had a three and a nine then you've got a six, which is two thirds of the way up the scale," explained Hess.

"Most Fs were a three, so to get that three up to satisfactory standing, which is five, it needs two sixes or a seven. It wasn't that bad. This time if you get an F, to get up to satisfactory standing, you need an A and not a lot of students who get Fs get As."

The error was caught early enough to remedy this year's grades but required a quick turnaround for those involved, as the final data confirming the discrepancy was only received on 3 February.

Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Janet Lo, who has worked tirelessly on the issue since it was first discovered, is pleased with the cooperative attitude and efforts put forward by all parties.

"Once I understood what this actually meant to all students on campus, we realized that we had to react very swiftly," explained Lo.

"Everything the University has done—the administration and all the committees of QFC [the General Faculties Council]—has been open and transparent and they've been willing to discuss all options. It has been very positive," she said.

PLEASE SEE GRADES • PAGE 2



14 Turns out Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson are as funny off screen as they are on. We interviewed them in today's A&E section, so go check it out and get your giggle on.

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Outside

Thursday Flurries, Owen and Ben: BFF. High 3, whatever, I hate lows anyway.
Friday Sun and cloud, the raging "magnum" ying to his "blue steel" yang. High 0, Low -8.
Saturday Sunny, the raging amputee enthusiast ying to his cowboy artiste yang. High 0, Low -6.
Sunday Summer, the raging Starks ying to his Hutch yang. High 0, Low -9.
Source: Environment Canada

From the archives

Two nurses discovered a woman's body in a parking lot southwest of 112 Street and 87 Avenue on their way to work. Kelli Anne Paquette was found fully clothed and with no visible signs of trauma to her body. Emergency services pronounced her dead upon arrival, and evidence suggests she was likely alive when abandoned at the parking lot. Police were still looking for information and knew that Paquette arrived at the airport Thursday evening, but her activities after that were unknown. An autopsy was done on the body. Full play had not been ruled out. At the time of print, people were still trying to contact a man who called 911 from a payphone in the area at 12:20am that Saturday morning.

1999



22 This year's Final Four will be held in the Main Gym. Oh wait, were you thinking basketball? No champ, this one's of the volleyball variety. The Pandas host the CarWest finals this weekend.



HOPING FOR THE BEST David Kastellan, team leader of the U of A's Autonomous Robot Vehicle Project.

Engineering students build robot car to compete in international competition

GRAHAM LIDDELL
News Writer

If everything goes as planned, the U of A Autonomous Robot Vehicle Project's car, Kodiak, will drive away with a few awards at an international competition in Detroit this summer.

A student group in the department of engineering, the goal of the Autonomous Robot Vehicle Project (ARVP) is to design a robot vehicle and compete with it in the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition (IGVC), held annually in Detroit, Michigan. The IGVC, and by extension the ARVP, offers students a chance to develop practical applications for the engineering theory they learn in school.

"One of the reasons to get involved in our project is a lot of the things you do in engineering, or in school for that matter, aren't very practical, so you're learning a lot of theory and doing stuff on paper but you never get to see what it can do in reality," explained David Kastellan, the team leader for the ARVP.

"It's also a good chance to get some interdisciplinary experience," added Bryant Wong, leader of the electrical team.

The ARVP's vehicle is a 360-pound indoor/outdoor all-terrain robot

called Kodiak. It is completely electrical, running off a pair of direct current motors. It employs a wide variety of sensors, including a laser range scanner, a Global Positioning System, sonars, and a digital compass. The information gathered by these sensors is combined and used to decide the path the robot is going to use to reach its destination.

"The hardest part for the robot is determining where to go," said Kastellan. "You can keep adding sensors forever, but determining which one's the most important at which time is the toughest part. It's a lot of stuff that you take for granted as a person, with two eyes and two ears. But with a robot that all has to be coded in, and it's tougher than it sounds."

The ARVP's past achievements in previous competitions has them looking forward to this year's IGVC. They consistently do well in the design component, and they won the navigation component in 2001.

A number of improvements to the Kodiak system, including new sensors, a more effective battery, a modified suspension, a new frame, boosted computer power, and completely reworked software, should improve their chances even further

this year.

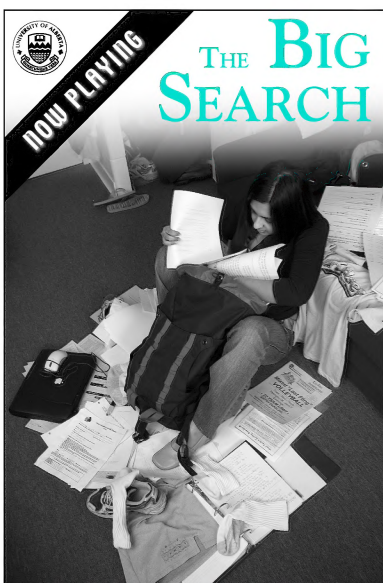
"It's a combination of everything. We present the vehicle very well, so that will go a long way with the judging," explained Monte Tuschek, leader of the platform development team. "We've got some of the smartest guys in engineering and comp sci on the team, and they're going to get the job done."

The Kodiak system has been in development for a number of years now, which gives the ARVP reason to believe any bugs will be worked out of their system, thereby preventing systemic difficulties, such as overheating or breakage, from removing Kodiak from the competition.

"Our goal is to place in every single event," said Kastellan. "And we're going to do that."

The IGVC is an international competition the ARVP has participated in since 1997. It is held by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International and is sponsored by a number of American government departments, including energy, transportation, and defense, as well as interested corporations such as Ford and General Motors, and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

The IGVC will take place from 12-14 June.



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Record store limiting advertising to avoid 'negative connotation,' says manager

HARD DRIVE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Bookstore eliminated its children's book section for the same reason it is now cutting the music section, he said.

While the Bookstore wishes to sell off all of its music inventory, currently there are no signs posted indicating that the Hard Drive CD sale is a going-out-of-business sale.

"We don't want to spin it into a negative connotation—big blow-out, we're closing down, that kind of thing. We thought we'd be a little more discrete in informing our customers that we're closing the store," said Dejong.

"We're getting close to our year-end, and we're not going to do a big blowout till after year-end," Anderson explained.

"We're going to clear out as much stuff as we can at cost, and then we'll do the fire sale afterwards."

Anderson emphasized that the decision was purely based on financial considerations.

"It's likely [students] will be as disappointed as we are, because we all

liked it; we all really liked having it. We thought it was a great mix, but it just didn't work," said Anderson.

"They're great people, they give great service, but it's also an industry that's dying. And the question

becomes, when do you need to recognize that? Do you wait until you're totally under, do you wait until it's impacting other parts of your business, or do you make a decision now?"



EMPTY SHELVES Student Eli Klein can't figure out where all the CDs went.



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UNITY IN THE WORLD OF COFFEE

Part 2

The other colony is inhabited by the bean people. The bean people yearn for the ultimate bean lifestyle. The journey of the bean people encompasses the entire world. The discipline of all the bean people is to protect and share the precious commodity of the bean. Accepting the world's lack of knowledge and understanding of the bean is the responsibility of each bean person. The quest to change unacceptable practices is perpetual.

The search for the bean begins by travelling the landscapes to find the cargo. The spell that comes from such a beautiful flower and aromatic scent mesmerizes all who experience it. Who is growing the bean and how it is grown can be one of turmoil and has many bottles of its own. Those who adhere and practice their skill of sight, sound and aroma can only master the coast of the bean. Combining flavours of the earth where the bean was grown is a life-long apprenticeship.

The fusion of elixir of the bean and water must be monitored and guarded to ensure the brew is of the optimum freshness. It must be said that the elixir should never be offered to the world for too long. The life of the coffee elixir is small; the dance of flavour as it hits your tongue, leaves quickly and must never be prolonged by heat and storage.

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Candidates discuss VP (Academic) priorities

DAVID BERRY
News Writer

Dealing with all the major issues that affect undergraduate students' academic lives, the Vice-President (Academic)'s portfolio includes everything from textbooks to teaching to technology on campus.

Two candidates are going head-to-head this year: Lisa McLaughlin is a fifth-year psychology student who currently sits as a student-at-large on the Academic and External Affairs Boards. Vivek Sharma is a fourth-year sociology student who has been a councillor for two years.

1 How do you think the University should strike a balance between research and teaching?

McLaughlin: Quality of education has been suffering lately because the University is so focused on its research. I really think they need to reexamine the kind of impact this is having on teaching. I'd like to see the University live up to its mandate of being both research and teaching oriented. I also think it's important that students define what they expect of their education. We talk about quality of education, but no one really knows what "quality" is.

Sharma: The issue for most professors is that they get promoted based primarily on how well they do their research. So it's pretty obvious that [teaching and research] are opposed; there is only so much time you can spend on one or the other. There needs to be more of an emphasis, in terms of pay increases for professors, on their evaluation through students and peers. Something that could also be integrated is a three-credit course for Masters students that specifically addresses how to manage a class.



Vivek Sharma.

2 This year, the U of A has seen cutbacks to many facilities. As VP (Academic), how do you think funding issues should be dealt with?

McLaughlin: I think a huge problem is government cutbacks. They really need to realize how their under-spending is impacting the quality of education. It also goes back to the fact that the University is trying so hard to focus on the facilities that are core to its research mandate. It's a little hesitant to suggest that faculties seek corporate or private donations, because I have concerns about people out there deciding what Universities should be doing.

Sharma: This year is very important because the University is facing a \$28 million budget gap, so in terms of the whole issue of tuition versus educational quality, it falls heavily on the VP (Academic)'s shoulders to ensure that key services which contribute the most to the quality of your degree aren't eroded. Things

like making sure the key library services are still available and that you can speak to your TA or professor over e-mail.

3 What do you see as the main concerns that need to be addressed by next year's VP (Academic)?

McLaughlin: Definitely quality of education. I know that's a broad term, but there are all kinds of things going on, and as tuition keeps rising, we need to address these, because it seems to me that we keep paying more and getting less. There is also the whole issue of grading problems with the new four-point scale. It's important that we really monitor that and see that the problem is fixed.

Of course, there is government funding as well. This is an important year for elections, and also with the search for the new President of the U of A, this is a good year to bring a public awareness of the issues surrounding quality of education here. I think it's time for a new message and it could be a good year to get our stuff on the agenda.



Lisa McLaughlin.

Sharma: One of the main concerns is how students obtain their textbooks. It is important to increase the availability of course packages through print-on-demand and also letting students have access to their textbooks earlier so they have more flexibility.

I also think a huge issue is the new grading curve. We have to make sure that all those promises made by the University administration are followed through. This affects every single student on campus. So making sure that all those promises are taken care of, that cases are looked at by individual bases, and that everything is balanced out is absolutely crucial.

4 Who has dreamier eyes: current SU President Mat Brechtel or the Gateway?

McLaughlin: Oh, I'd say Mat Brechtel, considering his eyes were in the Gateway. It's that steel-blue quality.

Sharma: I'm not sure if the Gateway has dreamier eyes, but they probably have other characteristics that are just as attractive; other parts of their body.

5 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

McLaughlin: I think I'd rather fight a gorilla. I might have a slightly more equal shot at winning—well, not winning, but standing up to a gorilla. Gorillas are more interesting; they make cool noises.

Sharma: I'd probably want to fight a bear, just because I think one of the issues that students have to face is Beartracks. That's another key issue that needs to be addressed.

BoG candidates aim for stronger voice

ROBIN COLLUM
News Writer

The Board of Governors (BoG) is the highest governing body of the University and decides, among other things, tuition from year to year. Out of the BoG's 20 seats, only two go to undergraduate students: the Students' Union President and the BoG Representative.

This year, two candidates are fighting to represent your interests: Michael Hunka, and the incumbent, Roman Kotovych.

1 This is a relatively low-profile position. What interests you about it?

Hunka: I believe the BoG Rep is an extremely important and powerful position. You play a role in the most important decision-making body on campus. This aspect of the role interests me as it presents the opportunity for change and allows the thoughts and feelings of the student body to go right to the top of the food chain.



Roman Kotovych.

Kotovych: When I first ran for this position, it was the mixture of SU involvement and having input at the University level that appealed to me. The reason I'm running for re-election is there are certain issues I would like to have input on at both levels.

2 Many people don't know what the role of the BoG Rep is. What do you see as the most important part of the position and why?

Hunka: The most important role of the BoG Rep is to know the issues at hand, such as tuition increases, the U-Pass, and campus expansion, or that come up in the future. They need to know these in depth and then relay the feelings of both the Students' Union and the student body to the Board.

Kotovych: The BoG is effectively an oversight body for the University. It's not a managing body; it's a governing body that oversees what the University's doing and brings back criticisms, and suggestions. You need a student perspective on the issues to offer an informed opinion.

3 The undergraduate BoG Rep plays an important role in the annual tuition debate. What is one thing you'd like to do next year to effect the direction the debate takes?

Hunka: I think the debate on tuition has taken a horrible path in the past few years. What is a very serious issue to the student body has been turned into somewhat of a joke. I don't feel that stunts based around tuition are effective in showing the impact it has. Next year, I'd like to get the student body more active in voicing their frustration about tuition through better campaigns that tackle emerging issues. I hope this debate would be more lively, as it actually focuses on students and directly involves them.

Kotovych: What I did this year, and

what I'm hoping to do next year, is be involved with the SU in a tuition committee. At the meeting itself, I tried to reduce the increase from 5.3 to 3.4 per cent, a medium between what the SU was pursuing and what I could see happening at the Board level. If the SU wants to lower tuition, there's a few things that need to happen. One is working with the administration to lobby the provincial government. The only way we can challenge the need for an increase is to closely examine the budget and put forward a viable alternative.



Michael Hunka.

4 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

Hunka: I'd attempt to fight the gorilla. Since a gorilla is similar to us humans, I figure I stand a better chance of reasoning with him. I'll compliment him, tell him how nice his rump is, and how his face has a nice complexion. If all else fails, I'll act like the smaller monkey that we are and just wait my poop at him like a bat out of hell.

Kotovych: I'm going to say gorilla, for he would be easier to reason with before I poke him in the eye with a stick and then run like hell.

Ops & Finance candidates seek student input

JAKE TROUGHTON
News Writer

The Vice-President (Operations & Finance) is responsible for the administrative and financial aspects of the Students' Union. This year, the race is between Alvin Law, who has worked with Orientation and the Engineering Students' Society, and Josh Bazin, currently an engineering counsellor.

1 If elected, what will you do to stay in touch with the many different student sentiments on campus?

Law: One of my biggest goals is to connect better with the general student population. One of my priorities is to meet with one randomly-chosen student every single month and have lunch with them, paid out of my own pocket. Past executives who have come and talked to students have usually talked to them as a group, and usually the most dominant ones will speak up. The quieter ones are the ones that I want to hear from.



Josh Bazin.

Bazin: I think there's quite a few

venues to get diverse views. The SU webboard, for example, has views from far right to far left, and a lot of good ideas come from those groups. Council is a good place to get student views. And I think gripe tables could possibly work, they just need to be more prevalent.

2 As VP (Operations & Finance), you'll be responsible for the money, operations and budget of the SU. With that in mind, how do you budget your own money?

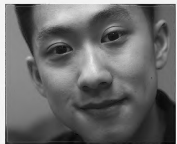
Law: I work part-time as a lifeguard at the World Waterpark at the moment. I do have experience in terms of handling money; my past position as Vice-President of Operations and Finance of a junior achievement company in grade nine is where my portfolio grew out of. It gave me the experience and first-hand knowledge that I feel would be beneficial to this position.

Bazin: Lots towards video games, unfortunately. I move my money around, and make sure I have enough to spend some time with friends or go out with my girlfriend. But I don't go around buying exorbitant things; I try to stick to the essentials.

3 Provincial underfunding is an important area of concern for many students. How will you approach the Alberta government about these concerns?

Law: I would approach them with new methods. Mike Hudema's [as SU President] was a very

media-based year; there was a lot of public protesting and public events that were meant to draw attention towards provincial underfunding. I believe we need to continue those high-profile events because that's what gets interest from the general population.



Alvin Law.

Bazin: I think that what we should do is work with the administration on finding ways to lobby the government together, because obviously it's the administration's problem as well as ours. We need to provide a long-term advertising campaign to get public support so that postsecondary education becomes a priority for the citizens of Alberta.

4 Which would you rather fight, a gorilla or a bear, and why?

Law: I would fight a bear. Throughout life, we've been taught how to handle a bear if you ever encounter one.

Bazin: I'd say the gorilla, because it'd probably be easier to fight like a person.

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THE GATEWAY

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PEER HEALTH
EDUCATORS

Athletics fund's future up to voters

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
News Writer

The legacy fund was created in 1991 to help provide funding for inter-university competition as well as equipment for athletics and recreation. The motion to get rid of the fund was moved by Business Councilor Steve Smith. He says that when he ran for President last year and talked to students about dedicated fees, this was the one that invoked the most hostile response.

The question will be worded as follows: Do you support the elimination of Section 2 (e) of Article VIII of the Students' Union Constitution, which currently reads: "Pursuant to a referendum passed on 6 and 7 March 1991, the sum of Three Dollars and Thirty-Six cents (\$3.36) per Fall or Winter Term from each full-time and part-time student's Students' Union fees will be allocated to the Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund." The results of this referendum will be binding the Students' Union in accordance with Article V of the Students' Union Constitution.

The "yes," or elimination side of the referendum, is being represented by Business Councilor Steve Smith.

1 What is the rationale for supporting the elimination of the Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund?

Smith: There are a few reasons. First of all, the University imposed an Athletics and Recreation Fee. The vast majority of that fee, which is quite a bit higher than the Legacy Fund

[fee], goes to varsity teams and not to resources like the fitness center and intramural sports which are the sort of things that all students have access to. That in and of itself is fairly upsetting, and then on top of it, to have the Students' Union imposing an additional fee takes that one step further. The next thing is that in the mid to late '90s, athletics ran up a large accumulated budget deficit and eventually the way they got out of that was, in large part, a transfer from the University General Operating budget, which is funded largely by tuition. We have already funded athletics through tuition and through the Athletics and Recreation Fee. I don't see why the Students' Union needs to bring another fee on top of that.



Steve Smith.

2 What effect do you think the elimination of the fund will have on students?

Smith: On the vast majority of stu-

dents, quite frankly, I think it will save them seven dollars a year and that will be about the extent of the effect on them.

3 What effect do you think the elimination of the fund will have on the teams?

Smith: I think it will reduce opportunities for non-conference travel. I think that's about it. Some people are fearmongering; people are saying things like, "Pandas rugby will go down if not for the Legacy Fund," and that's absolute garbage. The vast majority of the fund goes to support non-conference travel, so if you eliminate the Legacy Fund you will eliminate expenditures on non-conference travel and that will be the largest single effect.

4 Why do you personally support the elimination of the Legacy Fund?

Smith: For the reasons I gave earlier about the rest of the fees being given. On top of that, I'm not a huge varsity athletics fan. I have gone to Bears hockey games but when I do I still have to buy a ticket on top of all the money that I'm paying through the Athletics and Recreation Fee, tuition, and through the Legacy Fund. Beyond that, it's just a values thing. To what things are you prepared to apply the collectivist mentality versus those to which should be user-pay? The Legacy Fund is the second highest dedicated fee of the twelve or so that exist. I think it's one of the ones that gives the least tangible benefits to students.

trying to make sure that those benefits become solidified and that everyone is experiencing athletics.



Kevin Peterson.

2 What effect do you think the elimination of the fund will have on students?

Peterson: It's hard to say. The ramifications of it are not entirely known yet for the student body as a whole. For student athletes, it would be a shock to the system because it's a whole bunch of fundraising that they didn't have to do before that they are now going to have to do if they want to remain competitive. Since student athletes do so much as far as training, practicing and fundraising as it is, if you increase the fundraising requirement it's going to really hurt a lot of student athletes.

3 What effect do you think it will have on the teams?

Peterson: We do a lot to ensure teams reciprocate for what they are given. An example is the pancake breakfast. We have teams out there serving pancakes first thing in the morning to students as a way to give back for what they have received. We also do things like giving free tickets away to events such as the Can-Am volleyball tournament instead of just discounted prices. With the amount of promotion and the interaction between athletics and students that's been done this year, we are really

4 Why are you personally against it?

Peterson: Removing the Legacy Fund is essentially sentencing athletes to have to do more fundraising. We are operating right now on a very tight budget, this is \$150 000 that could just disappear. So student athletes all of a sudden have to put in all this extra effort. Yes, there are privileges to being a student athlete, but there is also a lot of time and hard work that goes into it too. It's not a significant amount of money, but to the athletes it means the world.



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Homeless have a basic right to shelter

WALKING HOME ONE DAY, I passed a man on Whyte Avenue. "Can you spare some money, I'm really hungry," he said. I didn't have much, but I remembered the apple I hadn't eaten that day, and began to pull it out of my shoulder bag to give it to him. His response: "No thanks, I really just need a meal." My apple was insufficient, it seems.

On a downtown street, I encountered a woman in a rusty wheelchair, swinging her short legs back and forth. She asked me for money as I was ending a conversation and flipping shut my cell phone. I couldn't possibly have said no, since I had some money on me. And while my monthly income barely reaches quadruple digits, I could spare a few dollars. If I can afford a cell phone, I can afford to share what I have. As I looked through my wallet, I told her I didn't think I had much on me, but I'd give her what I had.

"Do you have a five?" she asked. Incredulously I told her no. "What about a ten?" Again, I was stunned. I handed her a couple of twenties, but before I headed off, she explained that McDonald's wasn't open, and she was really parched. She pointed to a coffee shop across the street, and said, "Could you get me a coffee, ten sugars one cream?" I told her no, flatly, and made my exit. She begged me a couple of times, still swinging her legs as I left.

What these instances prove, is not that all poor people are dishonest and scheming. Hardly. I've had good conversations with many of the homeless people I've encountered. There are a lot of really great people in shitty circumstances. But what it does prove, is that people in bad circumstances are still people, not martyrs. Some are responsible for their station in life, and many (probably most) are certainly not.

In response to an editorial I wrote at the beginning of the semester, I received a lot of criticism from readers and friends of mine, as well. In critiquing the location of the homeless shelter on 8th avenue (and not the homeless shelter itself), I was branded a "homeless hater," by one reader, and a "soccer mom" by a friend of mine.

I maintain that liberal guilt is pervasive among those on the far left of the political spectrum, at times hindering thorough consideration of issues and different interests. Also believe that the far left can be inflexible. And I believe that the left has a tendency to romanticize poverty as well. The anecdotes I've described (which both occurred within a three-day period), indicate that not all who are in a bad situation remain virtuous. Some use wheelchairs to garner sympathy, some lie for money, perhaps to buy drugs and alcohol.

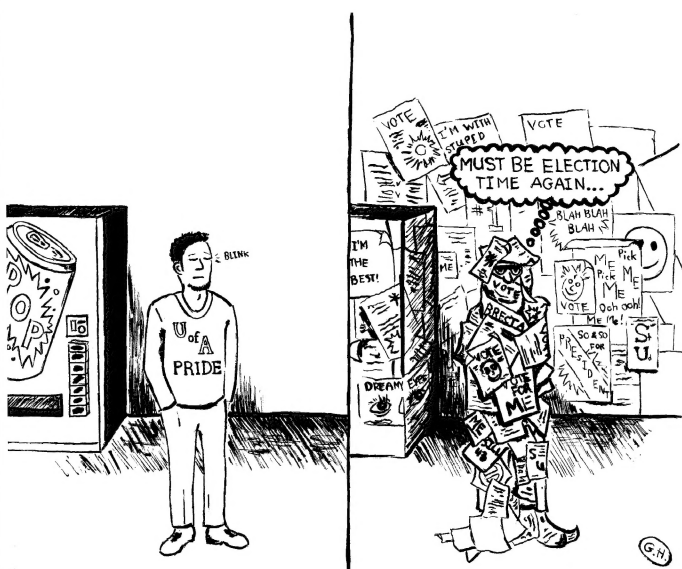
But, upon further reflection, I realize that in a very important sense, I was wrong. I don't believe there is a bad place for a homeless shelter, and I am not so inflexible as to refuse to admit it. As a journalist, I owe it to readers to take such criticisms seriously. I would hate to think I'd wrongly swayed a handful of readers.

Ultimately, there will always be interests in conflict. A friend of mine suggested that an industrial part of town would be fitting for a shelter. All agree, I couldn't reply for a few moments. I wondered how a person could suggest something so unkind. And then I thought of my editorial.

Indeed, there are some really good reasons why community residents ought to react negatively to a homeless shelter in their area. Feeling safe in one's community is something we're all entitled to. But conversely, the right to shelter is a human right, and can justifiably trump another's entitlement to a feeling of security. Ultimately, there will always be some opposed to a homeless shelter anywhere there is a homeless shelter. And these people may very well be negatively affected. Families will always raise some valuable points, as will local entrepreneurs, who are perfectly entitled to defend their own interests.

However, at the end of a cold winter day, I would rather deal with the repercussions of having a homeless shelter in my community than know that the lobbying of a few worried but warm residents put the homeless at risk of freezing to death in their backyards.

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor



LETTERS

Students pay fines to Campus Food Bank

Thanks to many diligent U of A students who paid their library fines, the University of Alberta Libraries successfully raised over \$400 for our community's food bank. During the Fines for Foods campaign, which ran from 1-7 February, all library fines collected were donated the Campus Food Bank. This donation, one of the largest our organization has ever received, will permit us to meet an ever-growing need on campus, particularly during the summer months when food and fundraising opportunities are limited.

On behalf of the Campus Food Bank, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the many students who supported our service by paying their fines. In addition, I would like to extend a very special thank you to the University of Alberta Libraries. With this simple gesture, they have demonstrated their commitment to our community and will, undoubtedly, touch the lives of the hundreds of individuals who access our service each year.

To all those who contributed, thank you. With your continued support, we can address hunger in our community.

TEENA PASAY
Manager of the Campus Food Bank

Include an opt-out clause in the U-Pass proposal

I don't suppose it will help, but this is a final plea to the Students' Union to allow students to opt-out of the U-Pass, which will most likely pass next week's referendum.

As one of several thousand students who either live in residence or

live close enough to walk or bike to school, the extra \$120 per year is yet another burden that I have to face, in addition to the now-infamous 5.3 per cent tuition increase. I realize what the drop in price means for students who commute regularly which is why the U-Pass is a great idea, but less of one for me.

It's bad enough that the university swallows so much of our money needlessly (let's face it, your extra 5.3 per cent will not buy you a better seat in the 300-seat lecture hall, nor extra time with your prof next year as the 69 per cent failed to do last year), but does the SU have to be the vulture and pick apart our financial bones as well?

It makes you wonder, we protest in front of University Hall and lobby university bodies when it comes to money, yet no one questions the SU and what it does with our money. A summary page in the Gateway every once in a while doesn't do justice to the of our dollars they deal with every year.

CLAIRE BOULON
Science II

U-Pass referendum has its pros and cons

Ultimately, it doesn't matter which way you vote in the upcoming U-Pass referendum. Before you flip a coin though, the following might at least provide you with the information necessary to make an informed non-decision.

Most people would agree that there is both an individual and a community benefit from transit. The individual transit rider benefits from a low cost, more affordable mode of transportation and from increased productivity while the community benefits from a healthier environment, lower transportation infrastructure costs, and increased economic activity

to name but a few. The question becomes: who is responsible for paying for these benefits? Is it the user or the community? I personally believe that the community should pick up the bulk of the costs as I see a greater community benefit. Using this logic, I believe the U-Pass is conceptually a good idea. Unfortunately it is simply not practical, particularly at the rates being proposed.

First of all, the Students' Union and the three principle transit authorities have been through preliminary negotiations and the rate required by transit is far higher than what the SU is proposing. While it may be true that other levels of government could pick up the balance of the tab, what happens if there is suddenly an enormous increase in ridership due to the fact that 30,000 university students suddenly have bus passes at their disposal? Transit authorities would then have to augment their infrastructure and let me assure you, it doesn't come cheap. Just one articulating bus costs upward of \$650,000! Predicting the counter-argument that the revenue from the U-Pass would make up for this added expenditure, it certainly would not. Transit services are currently subsidized an average of 50 per cent by the respective municipalities and therefore they would be the ones picking up the tabs.

Without going into too much more detail, the best part of the whole referendum is that even a "yes" vote wouldn't bind the SU to anything. The wording essentially means that the SU would only be bound to negotiations and the whole deal would be subject to approval from the transit authorities, which I believe is a near impossibility.

Therefore, if you cast a "no" vote, you will be saving your representatives a lot of wasted time and effort, and if you cast a "yes" vote, our SU would be spending the next couple

of years fighting a valiant battle that would be every bit as attainable as a roll back on tuition.

NEIL KOROTASH
Education IV
City of St. Albert Alderman

Why wouldn't you vote in favour of the U-Pass?

I am surprised to see signs around campus suggesting that we, the students, reject the U-Pass proposal. Many people complain about the increase in tuition, but for the majority of us who use public transit, it saves a heck of a lot of dough.

In Calgary, SAIT and the University of Calgary implemented the idea almost the moment it was conceived. I don't understand why it cannot be passed here with ease.

It seems to me there are a lot of stubborn people who think about the present rather than the future. If this vote ever comes up again in the future, I am certain that the price will be larger than the \$120 that is being proposed. In any case, knowing the nature of people, it won't be passed for stupid reasons. But I can tell you that my vote is yes for the U-Pass.

CHRIS MCPARTNEY
Civil Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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Resume Writing
Tuesday, March 2, 2004, 3:30 – 6 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Interview Skills
Tuesday, March 9, 2004, 3:30 – 6 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Workshop for Students from ALL Faculties

Career Decision Making Strategies
Wednesday, March 3, 2004, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.; 2:100 SUH

Workshops for Students in Science & Engineering

Resume Writing
Wednesday, March 3, 2004, 5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Interview Skills
Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Workshops for Students in Phys. Ed and Recreation

Career Selection
Thursday, March 4, 2004, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.; 2:702 SUH

Workshops for Graduate Students

The Academic Interview
Students in Science & Related Areas
Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Students in Arts & Related Areas:
Thursday, March 11, 2004, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Note: In order to run these workshops, we require five registrants prior to Friday, March 5, 2004.

Establishing a Career Outside of Academia
Students in Arts & Related Areas
Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Students in Science & Related Areas:
Thursday, March 25, 2004, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Workshops for Students in Health Sciences

Resume Writing
Thursday, March 11, 2004
5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Interview Skills
Thursday, March 18, 2004
5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Workshops for Students in Agriculture, Forestry & Home Economics

Resume Writing
Tuesday, March 23, 2004
5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Interview Skills
Tuesday, March 23, 2004
5:30 – 8 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Workshops for Students in Education

Creating a Teaching Application Package
Saturday, March 20, 2004
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Building a Teaching Portfolio
Saturday, March 20, 2004
1 – 3 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Looking for Teaching Positions
Sunday, March 21, 2004
10 – 11:30 a.m.; 4:02 SUH

Interview Skills
Sunday, March 21, 2004
12:30 – 3 p.m.; 4:02 SUH

Pre-register at CoPS, 2-100 SUH

Fees and other details at HYPERLINK
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PM must have known something

STIERLING
LOW

Who the hell voted for the Liberals? Almost every week since Jean Chrétien has resigned, the Liberal Party has come up with another reason not to trust them. From Paul Martin's bursaries to \$2 billion into a gun registry that is neither working nor effective to the recently exposed sponsorship scandal, I can't stand to think of these guys running my country.

Mr Martin has done a great job playing the idiot lately. And I mean that as a compliment. If I were in his position, I would seriously consider doing the same. He is, by pleading ignorance, dissociating himself from the piles of scandal heaped about him, and hopefully proving his innocence. He didn't know about the sponsorship scandal that yanked 100 million big ones from us. He didn't know about the millions of dollars his own company received unjustly. He didn't seem to know much about how our money was being spent, and to add to the irony, he was the Minister of Finance at the time.

Over \$2 billion is being spent trying to create a way to track the gangs of people who legally own them. I'll say what has been said over and over again so maybe someone will listen: there's got to be some other way this money could be spent: MRIs, criminal rehabilitation efforts, killing all the dogs with rabies—anything!

Much more money is dedicated to satiating Quebec: buying votes and doing “whatever it takes” to appease that province seems to be the name of the game in Ottawa, and us voters never do anything about it. Can you imagine what would happen if millions of dollars were pumped illicitly into Alberta? The rest of Canada would want the PM's head on a spike. Mobs of people would come to Parliament with pitchforks and torches and demand they pay that money back.

Something needs to be done. Talk has been circulating about resignation, criminal charges, hurlap sack beatings, and an early election. Although my tendency is to shy away from the beatings, any or all of the options listed would be great methods for the Liberals to show some class and accountability.

It's been a long time coming, but I think that Canadians might just be waking up to the realization that the Liberals have been hosting them all along. It happened to Mulroney in the '80s, and things changed in favour of the Liberals. Though I'm less than impressed with what the Liberals have done, I can't say I'm surprised. The fact that this is coming from the same government that promised to scrap the GST helps to prove that we got exactly what we paid for. And many of us are tired of paying for it.

Mr Martin can play stupid all day long, but even when he pulls it off, he comes off looking dumb. He'll yell and scream that “heads will roll,” but, three Crown Corporation heads aside, few will.

Mr Martin can play stupid all day long, but even when he pulls it off, he comes off looking dumb. He'll yell and scream that “heads will roll,” but, three Crown Corporation heads aside, few will. He can't afford to splinter his party even further; the man's not dumb enough to make his party look bad. The “justice” that you and I will witness will likely be nothing more than, “Well folks, we launched an inquiry and it turns out we sure did waste a lot of money. Sorry. Move Liberal!”

The behaviour of the federal Liberals is like a babysitter being negligent and unknowingly letting a baby freeze in front of an open window, despite its cries. Even if Mr Martin didn't know what was going on, I bet he heard some babies crying.

There's more to arranged marriage than you might think

ANUOT
GILL

Admit it. You've been checking that person out. There's something about that person that stands out and you can't help being attracted and wonder if you'll date this person. I've often thought that. But, the difference for me is that in the end, I will not take part in what I call a “love marriage”; I'm destined for an arranged marriage.

A love marriage, to me, is a marriage where those involved are able to choose their ideal mate. Arranged marriages are, traditionally, when parents are able to match their sons or daughters to whom they believe to be their ideal mate. The concept of arranged marriages is frowned upon in Canadian culture. Comments such as, “You should choose,” “It's your life!” and “That's not fair, I'm so glad I'm not you,” are the most frequent statements I receive when I share this uncommon piece of information. Being a part of a tradition that practices arranged marriages is like getting presents at Christmas or celebrating birthdays. It's a custom that was developed “back in the day,” and is practiced by hundreds of thousands of people.

Arranged marriages used to allow only the parents to choose the future spouse of their child. Now, that's all changing. It's becoming a tradition of matchmaking and planning. It's not as strict as it once was assumed and deemed to be. Because of Western influences, it has been re-invented into something different.

Arranged marriages raise a obvious question: is this an invasion of a person's freedom of choice? No—that's a common misconception.

In modern arranged marriages, not all choice lies with the parents. They act as matchmakers and “set you up” with a person that could be a potential mate. This isn't much different from being set up by a friend. You obviously give your friend a certain amount of trust in order for them to set you up with someone, but your parents have been around you from the day you were born. They have seen the way their child has been brought up, and so it makes sense for them to play matchmaker.

Another worry is that you'll be miserable for the rest of your life. First of all, if arranged marriages consist of being introduced to potential future spouses, then the need to worry is minimized. A person holds the right to reject or accept offers. The opportunity to get to know the person, or “dating” is becoming a more popular trend. Most importantly, falling in love becomes a dream that is attainable through these means.

Compatibility plays a significant role. Many Asian cultures still believe that parents know their children best. Parents aren't out there to settle land disputes or long-time family rivalries anymore—those were the reasons arranged marriages occurred in India. Nowadays, parents are looking out for our happiness and success. That is a common hope for most, if not all, parents.

Arranged marriages are perceived as a cruel practice in which individuals are forced into an unwelcome arrangement. Take a look at a country, like India, that practices it, though. Divorce rates are quite low, while in North America, one in every three couples seeks divorce.

Many of us want an unshakable bond of love in which we see ourselves having children and growing old with someone. To search for your own partner is no less worthy than trusting others with this goal. I am not worried about my future. It's in the hands of my parents. But most importantly, it's also in my hands.

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Lack of joke candidates equals bad news for SU elections

CHRIS
BOUTET

"Laughter is the best medicine" is one of those famous quotes that gets thrown around a lot; so much so that it almost makes you forget that it's a pretty stupid thing to say.

Clearly, there are precious few situations in which this old adage rings true: take Lou Gehrig's Disease, for example. All the snickering in the world isn't going to help you there. Getting punched in the dink and then thrown off a building into a bullet factory and having the impact set off a lighter in your pocket that makes all the bullets go off and lodge themselves in the speech centre of your brain? Hardly a situation that can be fixed with a healthy dose of glee—although some may find it funny if all that brain trauma you suffered makes you replace the word "the" in all your sentences with "dog balls" when you talk. I know I would, but don't mistake my laughter for cruelty. I would mean it in the most sincere, empathetic, I'm-really-sorry-you-fell-off-fifty-times-and-now-you-say-dog-balls-in-church-all-the-time kind of way.

Yes, from those two incredibly poignant examples, it's rather obvious that laughter has proven to be a pretty mediocre medicine at best. Still, it would be unfair to completely discount the value of this quote; surely, there are some situations in which laughter can prove beneficial in curing an ailment. In fact, there's something going on right now on campus that could use the mystical healing powers of laughter to save it from being crushed under the

weight of its own suffocating boredom: the Students' Union elections.

That's right. I called SU elections boring. You want to fight about it, business councillor Steve Smith? Didn't think so.

I certainly don't fault anyone for the rampant bore-osity intrinsic in the SU; student politics by their very definition are boring. If they weren't, we'd have a five-hundred-person race for the executive. Or even better, a five-hundred-person race for a spot on the "sexecutive." I worry that this year, more than any other year, we're going to see even less interest in the race. Why? Because for the first year in the seven that I've spent here on campus, either as a scary diffident or Gateway volunteer, there is not one single joke candidate in the running.

If it wasn't for the brave souls who put their sometimes-dubious senses of humour up for public scrutiny, I doubt we would have the same relatively high rates of participation that our elections have compared to others in the country.

Trust me: this is a bigger problem than it seems. I've heard it said by more than a few people that joke candidates are a waste of money and time—after all, what's the point of running a campaign that just eats up votes and isn't able to actually win even if it did?

In truth, joke candidates are seriously undervalued; they actually bring quite a bit to the campaign trail. They actually make students care.

If it wasn't for the brave souls who put their sometimes-dubious senses of humour up for public scrutiny, I doubt we would have the same relatively high rates of participation that our elections have compared to others in the country. Without the efforts of the people behind such surprisingly hilarious candidates as the Pepsi and Tom Selleck campaigns, Your Mom for President, or even the not-funny-at-all-but-still-technically-a-joke George W. Bushwhacker of two years ago, there would be a lot of first-years (or fourth-years) out there who wouldn't even notice that there was a race going on. In short, joke candidates indirectly generate interest amongst a populace that otherwise might not care less who was running the SU. Without them, it's going to be pretty hard to match the poll participation of years past.

But of course, maybe the lack of joke candidates this year says a lot about the outgoing SU. I hate to say it, because I know that this year's exec has dedicated a lot of their time to doing the best job they could, but it's been a pretty care-taker year on the second floor of SUB, especially when you compare it to the visibility of Mike Hudema's reign. Agree or not with his politics and methods, it's hard to deny that Hudema at least made students sit up and take notice.

After a year of relatively invisible activity in the SU, it should hardly come as a surprise that we have a dearth of joke candidates—and therefore interest—this year, but it's still a damn shame. I'll try my best to care about the President's race, although without a joke or two helping the process along, it's probably just going to end up as a race between the Lister block vote and the back/fraternity block vote. And maybe that's the biggest joke of all.

Still, it wouldn't hurt the process if one of the candidates at least pushed someone off a building into a bullet factory.

Political correctness has gone too fucking far

JOSH
KJENNER

Watching TV for the last three weeks or so, I've learned a couple of things. The first, I've learned from not owning a TV guide, that stupid channel five TV guide is slower than a car with square wheels, and that makes it pretty much fucking useless. The second, I've learned from watching the hoopla stemming from the Don Cherry and Conan O'Brien incidents: political correctness in Canada has gotten away out of hand, and we've essentially turned into a nation of whiny, over-sensitive passives.

I've long thought that political correctness is a formerly good idea that's been taken much too far. I understand that we don't want people running around and racially slurring one another, but PC-ness seems kind of pointless and pedantic.

Say I went and took a dump on your forehead, and instead of calling it "shit," I started calling it a Cadillac. Would that make you feel any better about the whole affair? A name is just that—a moniker that in no way changes the content of what it is naming.

The motive for using politically

correct terms is a noble one, but their use has gotten out of hand. Take, for instance, the inimitable Don Cherry and his recent comments regarding visors. Cherry didn't say that he hated French people or that he thought they were cock stinks. He simply stated that European and French players have a greater tendency to wear visors than English ones. This claim was later verified by the Globe and Mail, which brings me to the question: since when did stating a fact become wrong?

Say I went and took a dump on your forehead, and instead of calling it "shit," I started calling it a Cadillac. Would that make you feel any better about the whole affair?

A common argument is that, although Cherry was stating a fact, he was implying something else. So, let me get this straight: we're having 328 bureaucrats, the RCMP, eleven blood-brothers, and the Snow Birds launching inquiries into this because a mildly senile curmudgeon implied something? Are we really that sensitive?

Apparently the answer to that question is yes, which I learned after

observing the fallout from Triumph the Insult Dog's skit on Conan O'Brien. Québec is getting ready to separate again because a puppet called a few Québécois "dull and obnoxious." Dull and obnoxious—are you kidding me? While this may be considered a heinous insult at the weekly checkers game at the Legion, as far as jobs go, it's less offensive than an Oilers powerplay.

Political correctness's effects are becoming contrary to its original intentions. Instead of increasing tolerance, it's blowing every minor remark someone makes into a national crisis, and highlighting our differences instead of disregarding them.

I have a friend of Indian descent. Instead of walking around trying to catch people badmouthing cricket or curry, he revels in his brown-ness—most of the time hilariously. Some people might think it wrong to laugh at such things because it promotes discord, but I think the opposite is true. When he calls himself Brown Sugar or talks about his Brown Magic and laughs about it, it reveals racial difference to be the trivial issue that it really is.

If our dissimilarities really don't matter, then why can't we laugh at them? Making a huge issue out of trivial events only reminds us that we are all different. So if you're French (or otherwise), next time you see me, call me a slutty little Viking twat and shake my hand. It'll be funny, political correctness be damned.

B00000000M!
Blimp Explodes; Sounds Really Loud

What a great headline! And that thing below the headline? Also great! So great in fact, I'll bet you wish you wrote it. Well, you can. Come up to 3-04 SUB and volunteer for the Gateway. It's easy and fun, and we can help hone your writing skills too.

Looks like someone could have honed their blimp-driving skills, but it's not too late for you.

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Summer Work Search

Monday, March 1, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m. OR
Tuesday, March 23, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Labour Market Trends and Research

Tuesday, March 2, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Self-Employment: Putting Your Entrepreneurial Spirit to Work

Wednesday, March 3, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Strategies for Tapping the Hidden Job Market

Thursday, March 4, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Electronic/Scannable Resumes

Monday, March 8, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Get It Together: Building a Foundation for a Successful Work Search

Tuesday, March 9, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Self-Employment: Developing a Business Plan That Works

Friday, March 12, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Putting Your B.E.d. to Work Outside of the Classroom

Monday, March 15, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Career Tips for First Year Students

Tuesday, March 16, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Applying to Med School

Wednesday, March 17, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Becoming a Lawyer: First Steps

Thursday, March 18, 2004
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.

Looking for Work as a Substitute Teacher

Friday, March 19, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Using the Internet to Find Work

Wednesday, March 24, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Cover Letters and Other Work Search Letters

Monday, March 29, 2004
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.

Presentation slides may be purchased for \$2.00 after each seminar.

Check out the schedule for the entire term at
HYPERLINK "http://www.uolberta.ca/caps"



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Do you know how to enhance your employability and increase your work prospects? Find out at the following career forums. You'll also have the opportunity to network with guest speakers — often involved in the hiring process — over free refreshments & snacks.

History & Classics

Monday, March 8, 2004
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.; Tary 8-45
Guest speakers from the Canadian Navy, City of Edmonton Archives, Edmonton Public School Board, NAIT, Provincial Museum of Alberta, University of Alberta
Tickets: \$6.00 or CAPS or History Dept. Office (2-28 Tary); \$10.00 at the door

Languages and Linguistics

Wednesday, March 10, 2004
4 – 6 p.m.; Tary 8-45
Guest speakers from Canadian International Development Agency, Finning Canada, The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta, The Institute for Sustaining Treatment & Research
Tickets: \$6.00 or CAPS; \$10.00 at the door

Starting Your Own Business

Thursday, March 11, 2004
5 – 7 p.m.; CAB 265
Guest speakers from Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, The Business Link, Haskins/Dutton, I Can Track, World Financial Group & more... TBA
Tickets: \$6.00 or CAPS; \$10.00 at the door

Physical Education & Kinesiology

Tuesday, March 16, 2004
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.; PE E-120
Guest speakers from the Edmonton Eskimos, Edmonton 2005 World Masters Games, Department of National Defence, Markets International and WCB
Tickets: \$3.00 or CAPS or the Physics Ed & Rec Undergrad Office (P-421 Van Vliet Centre); \$10.00 at the door

Sociology

Thursday, March 18, 2004
4 – 6 p.m.; Rm TB 95
Guest speakers from City of Edmonton Community Services, Edmonton Police Service, Government of Alberta, Alberta Finance and Statistics, WCB, The United Way
Tickets: \$3.00 or CAPS or the Sociology Undergrad Office (5-27 Tary); \$10.00 at the door

Check out HYPERLINK "http://www.uaberta.ca/caps" for details such as a current speaker list.



HAVE YOU EVER?

TAKEN A PHOTO?
WRITTEN AN ARTICLE?
LOOKED LIKE THESE HEROIC FOLKS?



ALL CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 5 SUBMISSIONS IN THE GATEWAY NEWSPAPER WILL COUNT AS GATEWAY ALUMNI

Please attend to help spearhead the creation of the new Gateway Alumni Association. We will be electing an Executive Committee that will be responsible for the creation and implementation of this new Association. If interested in running for a position, you must be in attendance.

Gateway Alumni Association Meeting
Friday, February 27 at 5:00pm
Alumni Room, Students' Union Building

For more information, contact: Steve Liljeboom, Alumni Representative at stevenl@uaberta.ca

THE GATEWAY

Political and financial corruption must be contained



CARSON
CHENG

Canadians believe political and financial corruption isn't a serious problem in Canada; a troubling thought, since the volume of corruption that occurs is shocking. Canada has slipped from fifth place on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index to eleventh from 2000 to 2003. This calls for tougher corruption-fighting measures.

Last year, CTV's W5 documented rampant corruption existent between insurance companies and auto body shops involving kickbacks of 15 per cent or more "commissions" to appraisers and tow truck drivers for bringing business into "preferred" shops. Shops reportedly pay out hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, which they receive from the consumer. Consumers are prey due to lack of governmental oversight.

The government isn't off the hook either. Remember former Defence Minister Art Eggleton and his grant of \$37 000 to a former lover? And what of Chretien's involvement in the Shawinigan hotel loan scandal? More recently, there are the \$161 million worth of federal contracts and grants to Prime Minister Paul Martin's shipping company—merely \$160 million more than the government's original estimate.

Surely, these examples of corruption and alleged corruption should make Canadians protest for a police investigation. But can we even trust the police?

In 2000, CBC Radio learned that some Alberta police agencies were concerned Edmonton's force was corrupt. The RCMP, which had, over seven years, conducted two separate investigations into Edmonton's police, found some officers had ties to associates of Québec's Hell's Angels or ties to various Calgary drug dealers. The Calgary police chief had even written a letter of concern to his Edmonton counterpart in the early 1990s.

Canadians must admit corruption is a large and growing problem which cannot be solved by current legislation and police agencies.

Further east, the RCMP also investigated the Toronto police's infamous drug squad; in 1998, thirteen officers were charged with dozens of offenses. In January, 40 charges relating to money laundering, drug trafficking and other crimes were laid against six former drug squad officers following a two-and-a-half year RCMP investigation. The CBC called it "the largest corruption investigation in the history of Canadian policing." Disturbingly, many Toronto officers were hostile to the investigation; some altered or destroyed evidence, while some threatened witnesses—one even at gunpoint.

In all this, the RCMP is always the corruption fighter, but back in 1999, allegations surfaced that some RCMP officers sold hundreds of Canadian visas at Canada's Hong Kong consulate back in the 1980s and '90s, possibly allowing hundreds of criminals

to enter Canada. As for the officer who blew the whistle on this one, the force wanted to fire him for going public with the allegations.

Then there is the federal public works department's ongoing quarter-billion-dollar sponsorship fiasco. Among those implicated are Grospection, which received \$1.6 million, Canada Post, VIA Rail, and even the RCMP. Some have alleged the scheme was actually patronage payments to Liberal friends. If this is true, the scheme may be criminal.

Canadian private companies are likely no better in light of what happened with Italy's Parmalat and the US's Enron. All these cases may provoke a call for public inquiries and greater protection of whistleblowers. But something more drastic and permanent must be done.

Australia and other nations already have corruption fighting forces called the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), which holds sweeping powers to fight corruption at all levels within companies, governments and politics. As former Hong Kong Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said at the inception of Hong Kong's ICAC: "The situation calls for an organization, led by men of high rank and status, which can devote its whole time to the eradication of this evil; a further and conclusive argument is that public confidence is very much involved. Clearly the public would have more confidence in a unit that is entirely independent and separate from any department of the government, including the police."

Canadians must admit corruption is a large and growing problem which cannot be solved by current legislation and police agencies. Canada needs its own ICAC.

Rock 'n roll is far from an early grave



SHELDAN
SMART

"I don't know if it should be called a 'rock revival,' but thankfully rock 'n' roll bands seem to be making a strong comeback lately. The music industry appears increasingly receptive to a host of new bands that carry on the tradition of great rock music talents like the Beatles, the Doors, Jimi Hendrix, and the Stones."

It's gone on far too long. I hate the way the record industry manufactures boy/girl bands, assaults us with cheesy choreographed dance routines down to shallow, pre-recorded tracks, lip syncing that takes the place of any real song and musical talent, and the increasingly degrading ways the music industry makes sex and scandal the focal sales product. I thought they were in the business of making and selling "music," but judging by the stunts some artists pull today you'd never know it. Of course, music has long been inseparably intertwined with sex and shocking antics, but things have gone too far when music so consistently stops being the main focus and an artist's popularity centres around who they're dating, expensive, torrid and scandalous videos, elaborate and massive stage productions, public displays of lesbian eroticism, or "costume malfunctions."

We've been so quick to accept these mediocre musical talents as long as the packaging was right so that pubescent-like TV shows like *American Idol* could steal top-rating positions and take up massive print space in magazines everywhere. Even P Diddy is jumping on the bandwagon with a show of his own this year. The shallowness

and emptiness of industry-manufactured music will never achieve what true bands can accomplish artistically—bands with real musical talent and who have something to say should always come first. But today it's sex that sells, so that in a market where gratuitous sensationalism and shameless media-attention-grabbing tactics prove so effective, one wonders if there's any room left for bands that focus on the music.

I don't know if it should be called a "rock revival," but thankfully rock 'n' roll bands seem to be making a strong comeback lately. The music industry appears increasingly receptive to a host of new bands that carry on the tradition of great rock music talents like the Beatles, the Doors, Jimi Hendrix, and the Stones. These are bands who wrote their own music, played their own instruments, and actually sang at their live shows. Today, bands like the Strokes, the White Stripes, Evanescence, Jig, Billy Talent, the Teskeys, Three Days Grace, Incubus, and Finger Eleven are all out there touring, playing their hearts out, making their own music, and finally enjoying due media attention while filling concert halls and selling tons of albums.

Although many of these bands may be totally new to some people, believe me that they have all been around for years, jamming in their garages, cutting their own demo tapes, footing the bill for their own tours, playing crappy little gigs in empty bars and sleeping in their cars. Not one of these bands just sprang out of nowhere or can be called an overnight success. They paid their dues, did their time and stuck it out to get where they are now. And it was their music that got them there. Not everyone likes this kind of music, but I think everyone can appreciate the fact that the fame, success, and fortune these bands might now enjoy came by their own musical talent and that's worth something.

Me there's nothing like a good live show. There's raw emotion, creative energy and spontaneity, the ability of a band to connect with an audience through their music, is an amazing thing and I don't think anything touches people like music can. Music gets us through the hard times, makes the good times better and brings us all together.

It was Jimi Hendrix who said that he didn't want his music to be thought of as black or white or whatever because music is pure—a true universal language.

I'm destined to dance with myself



DAVID BERRY

Maybe it's just me, but there's something that bothers me about that whole "Asian Dance Party" thing at the Roxy. In case you haven't seen the table that was in HUB a few weeks ago, essentially the "Asian Dance Party" is exactly what it says: a dance party, presumably for Asians.

Now there is the obvious quibble, which would be the fact that I'll never see a table in HUB advertising a "Caucasian Dance Party." I would probably face some kind of backlash from the University, or at the very least get looked upon as some kind of bigot by most folks around here, and this is perfectly acceptable. But, to be honest, I really don't care about some perceived double standard about these kinds of things: whoever wants to have a dance party should have a dance party, whether or not I'm necessarily invited.

What really bothers me is the fact that it would never in a million years occur to me to host a Caucasian dance party. Nor, for that matter, would I host a Ukrainian dance party, an Irish dance party or a middle-class-kind-of-from-Sherwood-Park dance party. It would never occur to me to have any kind of social event based on some universal quality for the simple fact that I really don't feel any sense of fraternity with any particular group; there is no one faction of people out there that I feel an instant con-

nection to. And, quite frankly, that makes me kind of sad. You would think that of all the communities I've been involved with, there would be at least one with which I felt a sense of brotherhood.

Why it is I've never felt this connection, I can't really say. I suppose part of it might have to do with the fact I've always been a part of the majority; it seems to me that a lot of these connections seem to come from having a shared characteristic different from the multiracial, be that ethnic, sexual orientation or otherwise. As a straight white male, I've never had any trouble finding people "like" me, but by the same token, I've never really felt especially close to any of them.

But to only chalk it up to that would be foolish. I've had plenty of opportunities to foster some sense of community, and none of them have ever stirred anything in me. For example, my high school spirit consisted mostly of not skipping class very much. On that note, my civic pride is completely absent if you consider my home city to be Edmonton—

downtight hostile if you consider it to be Sherwood Park—and even my nationalist tendencies, which were strong before, have all but waned to the point of nonexistence.

I think what it boils down to is that I believe having some bond because of a shared trait or experience is downright ludicrous. Why should I feel any more connected to someone because we both have Irish last names than I would if we both were wearing the same T-shirt? They're the same person—as interesting, just as annoying, just as whatever—no matter how many things we arbitrarily have in common.

That aside, I can't help but feel a little estranged towards people that have this sense of fraternity. Even if it seems strange to me, there are few connections I know of that are stronger than these seemingly arbitrary ones, and I can only wonder what it's like to share a connection with someone based on something bigger than their personality. But, unless something drastically changes my opinion on this, I guess I'll just be dancing with myself.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Reasons you're at the Greyhound Station

- 10 Getting high on invigorating stretch of urine and broken dreams.
- 9 Looking for love in all the wrong places.
- 8 Drastic cuts to field trip budget.
- 7 After years spent riding the short bus, you're ready for a change, damnit.
- 6 Fewer people notice your body odour for some reason.
- 5 Collection of garage sale porno fits perfectly in seven storage lockers.
- 4 Where else you gonna give a hail to the bus driver, bus drivin' man?
- 3 Just playing fun game of 'Spy a Drifter'.
- 2 Train stations don't get you hard anymore.
- 1 Hoping daddy will make good on his promise to return someday.

The kids are smoking it anyway; let's legalize it



KYLE COULMAN

Reading week is a great time in any student's academic career. Students have a whole week dedicated to preventing nuclear meltdowns in the middle of their semesters, mostly due to tensions caused by the flurry of essays and midterms we had to pull out of our asses the week prior. But aside from Reading Week, there exists another, more potent, way to rid yourself of all that undue stress: marijuana.

In the delirium of midterm week, I couldn't help but notice that there also seemed to be a bizarre scent permeating the air more frequently in innocuous places throughout campus.

After about five or so of these incidents, whiffed in passing throughout this week, I was in full-out disbelief as I bumped into a crowd next to HUB sharing an innocuously small cigarette; the source of the musty, yet intriguing smell.

The shock of brain-cell murdering in a time of great brain-cell need aside, I was somewhat impressed with these bold moments. I agree with marijuana being legalized, much less decriminalized, but there are a hell of a lot of people out there who don't. Therefore, I spent my week of freedom not only discovering how to make fart noises with my eye-socket and downhill skiing, but thinking of ideas to sway the naysayers into seeing the good side of marijuana.

First off, the government should tax the hell out of it. Marijuana sales, at this point, solely benefit the dealers of said product, as they peddle their wares in every location close to a bored or stressed-out populace. If legalized, it could be sold alongside cigarettes or alcohol, and like these two popular transgressions could have a tax that makes people moan and bitch constantly, yet doesn't prevent them from buying the product.

While I do advocate the many benefits that pot could have on our country, a part of me is aching to say the old adage that we've all been told pertaining not only to drugs, but sex, booze, and Tribbles serving as adorable pets: "Very good in moderation."

According to Stats Canada, "Alcohol sales for the country total \$14.5 billion, up 6.8 per cent from 2001," not to mention the \$3.8 billion extra made from tobacco sales. This, combined with money made from marijuana sales, could not only fix regular Liberal financial blunders and patch up our healthcare and education situations, but it could redirect police resources.

Our law enforcement agencies would no longer have to spend money chasing every member of the pot-smoking

demographic around the country, confiscating their little baggies or nailing people for "mysterious resin" deposits on their smoking accoutrement. They would be free to completely devote their time to clamping down on actual problems, like cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, or CO₂ cartridges rammed up and cavities. Marijuana is not as addictive as these hard drugs, nor is it justifiably identifiable as a "gate-way drug" for this very reason. In fact, marijuana has vast benefits to physical health that should thus be called into recognition.

I was surprised to learn through the Canadian Medicinal Marijuana Association that marijuana does so much more than make people untalented and make people hungry all the time. Certain strains of marijuana have proven to be effective as anti-inflammatory, as well as being terrific for prevention of vomiting and nausea, and the easing of glaucoma or macular degeneration. Among others, there are benefits for all the women at least once a month as herb is proven to take the bloodclottingness out of those who are premenstrual. Queen Elizabeth I smoked a little for this very reason.

While I do advocate the many benefits that pot could have on our country, a part of me is aching to say the old adage that we've all been told pertaining not only to drugs, but sex, booze, and Tribbles serving as adorable pets: "Very good in moderation." Nonetheless, it looks like we're going to have to wait while before pot's legalized. In the meantime, I guess we'll just have to wait it out, cloister in the nooks and crannies of campus, or rig up clever filtration systems we read about in Time's.

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~ DEBATE ~

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For more info phone 452-4661 or www.ssa-edmonton.com

A Bioethics Week 2004 event cosponsored by
University of Alberta Debating Society, and
Schizophrenia Society, Edmonton & Area

Civil rights legend Fannie Lou Hamer is brought back to life with Billie Jean Young's one-woman show. Two local Black groups unite to bring you a re-creation of the struggles faced by blacks in the early 1900s through to the 60's. Dr. Billie Jean Young's One-woman show brings civil rights legend Fannie Lou Hamer to life. In "This Little Light of Mine" Dr. Young explores Fannie Lou Hamer's personal and public life. From the plantation to voting struggles, her brutal beating and her rise to the position of Vice Chair of the Mississippi Democratic National Committee, her life is celebrated through Dr. Young's play. Billie Jean Young has been featured in "Essence" magazine, appeared in the NBC movie *Blue Bayou* and the 1988 film *Mississippi Burning*, as well as several other projects.

The Black Pioneer Descendants Society of Western Canada will be presenting a musical tribute called "The Shoulders on Which We Stand." This enduring group gives a historical account of their ancestors that came from places such as Texas, Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Missouri. The migration, ensuing struggles as well as their present day success are presented through dynamic visuals and song.

"This Little Light of Mine" and "The Shoulders on Which We Stand" will be appearing March 5 & 6, 2004 at the Citadel Theatre located at: 9828-101A Ave. at 7pm. Tickets are \$35, or \$45 each. For more information please contact the CCAH office at: (780) 426-5807 or the Citadel Theatre at: (780) 425-1820.

Please join us in celebrating the development of African American civil rights, and the new found freedom by Alberta's own Black Pioneers. Presented by the Council Of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage and the Black Pioneer Descendants Society of Western Canada.

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The future is tech-

Are mandatory laptops for undergraduates an investment or a quasi-futurist

On the surface, the U of A's student body has never appeared overly concerned with technological glitz. Taking a look around campus, rustic, outdoorsy accessories courtesy of Mountain Equipment Co-Op seem more common than the latest iBook. Not to say that U of A students aren't adopting new, quasi-futuristic learning routines; take a look around any classroom or any corner of campus with wireless Internet service (locations include first floor SUB, RATT, HUB Mall, Rutherford South Reading Room) and you'll find a student with a laptop computer at their disposal. The influence of technology is being felt at the U of A, but there is still a ways to go. Students at top

schools in the United States and Europe have a greater chance to carry out their assignments in a skilled, tech-savvy format, while laptops are a mandatory tool on certain campuses in Eastern Canada (for example, Acadia University, the first Canadian university to require mandatory laptops of all its students).

"The pedagogical value of interfacing with technology on a regular basis is too often ignored. The benefits of interaction [with laptops] are manifold."

Erhan Erkut, Professor,
School of Business

Learning by laptop may not be favoured by everyone: it's costly, and not necessarily ideal for all faculties and programs. But it also offers many attractive benefits. The university itself is in a competitive industry. Thus, it could be argued any upgrade to the university's learning hardware modernizes the learning method, augmenting the prestige of its faculties as well as the stature of its students graduating into the labour force.

The U of A's school of business believes in this theory and has appointed a technology committee to evaluate new techniques that could maintain the faculty's position as one of the nation's most electronically integrated programs. In 1996, the school became one of the first business schools in North America to provide online forums for students. In 2003, the school of business also tried to stay technologically progressive by installing a wireless Local Area Network in the Business building, Tory atrium, and Hub Mall, a move that allows students to conveniently log on to the Internet via portable PCs. The school, which has received large investments from IBM, will continue a close working relationship by offering a "business bundle," complete with laptop and select software to students as early as next fall. But will mandatory laptop usage become inevitable for the U of A?

Business 201 professor Erhan Erkut envisions the future of learning to be almost entirely conducted via computer interface, making laptops a necessity for future students. "The pedagogical value of interfacing with technology on a regular basis is too often ignored. The benefits of interaction [with laptops] are manifold," he says, suggesting that such interaction will invariably pay for itself in the long run.

The efficiency provided by laptops can assist students with time management. And as a learning tool, their networking capabilities can allow for greater collaboration on group projects. Laptops can also be used in the classroom for interactive instruction; teaching programs

like *Silicon Chalk* allow professors to instantly send interactive problems to their students and design computer-based models during a lecture. "Technology is not standing still; it is growing by leaps and bounds," says Erhan, who feels U of A students must be entitled to the same technological opportunities afforded to students at the best schools on the continent.

However, in an age where hyphenated terms like "web-driven" and "globally-interactive" are tossed around to infer progress, whether this greater hype for e-tools actually produces tangible results is often uncertain. Moreover, in consideration of the 5.3 per cent tuition increase slated for next year, is it fair to burden students with an added expense given the uncertainty of a laptop's benefits? The value of technology is based on its utility to students; therefore as interaction with e-learning tools grows in importance, laptop usage by students will likely become more commonplace. As it stands, only 20 per cent of U of A business students own them, but some of those laptop owners will argue they're essential. "You could go through school without one," says fourth year student James Marsh, "but the paper trail would be dizzying."

Assistant Dean of Technology for the School of Business, Brent Poohkay, is in favour of a more sophisticated learning environment, but doesn't think a cookie-cutter solution would benefit all students in his faculty. "We are leaders without having to impose a mandatory laptop requirement," he says, mentioning that preserving student choice is important. In this regard, the U of A finds itself in an attractive



c waste?

Words: Patrick Sunderland
Photo: Shawn Benbow

position whereby students who wish to use mobile PCs in their learning routines benefit from having the infrastructure in place while not forcing the issue on all students.

But despite the U of A's efforts to create a modern learning environment, the school has not been nationally recognized for the technological opportunities it has begun providing to students. In last fall's *Globe and Mail* university report card, the U of A failed to position itself within the top 20 in Canada, while the University of Guelph, where all incoming students are meant to have laptops, was the toast of the survey.

Mandatory laptops, it would seem, increase the value of a degree. And they may also increase one's chances of being hired after graduation, an important factor for western universities to consider. *Canadian Business* recently reported that only a handful of top companies such as Microsoft, Dell, Hewlett Packard, IBM, and Sun Microsystems (all companies whose Canadian head offices are located in Ontario and Quebec), routinely employ Albertan graduates. Could mandatory laptops at our school increase students' chances of work after graduation?

The report in *Canadian Business* would suggest that convincing Eastern firms that "hayseed Alberta" is capable of producing skilled, computer literate thinkers has been an uphill battle; however, it's a battle the school of business has tried to fight. Erkut mentions that technical competency has become a necessity for those students interested in pursuing international commerce, and employers salivate over bright graduates who boast an arsenal of

computer skills such as that which a mandatory laptop program would provide. Adds Erkut, "if I'm IBM, why would I have come to the U of A to recruit?"

But the financial burden of instituting mandatory laptops may be too great. A student in financial need cannot apply for a student loan to purchase a computer. With provincial funding inadequate to cover the expense of a campus-wide laptop program, corporate sponsorship from large firms such as IBM, Microsoft, and other research-driven companies may be a means of funding as well as a possible source of scholarships, internships, and jobs for students in related fields. But such a solution comes with plenty of unease, as many see this as a 'selling-out' of our institution.

Regardless of whether the university moves towards a mandatory laptop program, it still seems that such programs offer benefits to students as they learn and as they enter the job market. Our future is dictated by our ability to produce innovative leaders for tomorrow, and the leaders of tomorrow are tech savvy.

"We are leaders without having to impose a mandatory laptop requirement."

Brent Poohkay,
Assistant Dean of
Technology,
School of Business

G



Ideas are a beautiful thing. These pantsless babies are not—beautiful things, that is. But they do have plenty of ideas. Ideas about culture, current events, candy floss, shetland ponies, potty training. Sometimes they talk to Features Editor Leah Collins and magically turn their ideas into 1000 words or so and have them printed in the Gateway. It makes their mummies and daddies real proud. It'd make your mom and dad proud too. C'mon champ, give it a try.

THE GATEWAY
From the potty to the page since 1910

SU Coucil & GFC Nominations

Ag/For/Home Economics -2 SU Seats -1 GFC seat	
Arts -9 SU Seats -8 GFC Seats	
Business -3 SU Seats -3 GFC seats	
Education -4 SU Seats -5 GFC Seats	Medicine and Dentistry -1 SU Seat -2 GFC Seats
Engineering -4 SU Seats -4 GFC Seats	Native Studies -1 SU Seat -1 GFC Seat
Faculte Saint-jean -1 SU Seat -1 GFC Seat	Nursing -2 SU Seats -1 GFC Seat
Law -1 SU Seat -1 GFC Seat	Open Studies -2 SU Seats
	Pharmacy -1 SU Seat -1 GFC Seat
	Physical Ed and Recreation -1 SU Seat -1 GFC Seat
	Science -9 SU Seats -8 GFC Seats

Nomination packages are available from your FA office, 2-900 SUB, or online.

Nomination deadline is March 9th @ 5pm.

WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/ELECTION04

Stiller and Wilson conspire once again in *Starsky and Hutch*

Hollywood funnymen discuss sex scenes with goats and dwarfs, Snoop Dogg, tight pants and running for president

Starsky and Hutch

Starring Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Carmen Electra and Snoop Dogg

Directed by Todd Phillips
Warner Brothers Pictures
www.starskyandhutchmovie.com
Opens Friday, 5 March

HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Well, it was a little nightmarish to have to see Ben [Stiller] wearing those tight jeans every day—I actually enjoyed my clothes, but yes, it was a little tough to watch him," jests *Starsky and Hutch* co-star and perennial Ben Stiller sidekick, Owen Wilson, in regard to the '70s wardrobe the two funnymen donned for their upcoming release. Reuniting once again after numerous comedic endeavours together, Wilson and Stiller seem cinematically sewn at the hip these days, but neither of them is anxious to be separated as they celebrate the release of their latest off-the-wall flick next week.

The two Tinseltown tomfoolery-lovers had a hand in the creation of such movies as *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Meet The Parents*, *The Cable Guy* and *Zoolander*, just to name a few, but neither is about to apologize for their incestual celluloid ways. In fact, they much prefer to work as a team. "When you're doing funny stuff, or even dramatic stuff, you want to find people that you believe in. I've been lucky, because I met Ben the first year that I came out to Los Angeles, so I've worked with him a lot and it's been great," Wilson explains. "Yeah, I just can't find anyone else who will work with me, but I keep trying," Stiller adds sarcastically.

In their latest picture, Stiller and Wilson play the cop duo from the quirky '70s TV show *Starsky and Hutch*, putting a modern spin on what the film calls the "era when disco was king and cocaine was its queen." What ensues is an hour and a half of unapologetically outlandish, tongue-in-cheek spoofing of ridiculous cars, hairdos, womanizing tactics and police officer antics.

"I think that the reason why the TV series

was such a phenomenon is because [original cast members] David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser had this really strong give-and-take and a natural chemistry. I hope the fact that Ben and I have worked together a lot and are friends in real life makes it come across like we have our own repertoire," Wilson explains in his easy, Jack Nicholson-esque drawl.

"Snoop [Dogg] was great to work with. When I'd look at the call sheet and see that Snoop was working, I knew that it would be a fun day that had a bit more of a Cheech and Chong element. I remember laughing a lot when Will Farrell came out to do his scene too, because he was just so ridiculous; he played it so straight and he's just one of those guys who makes everybody laugh."

OWEN WILSON

"We didn't feel like we had to stay totally close to the show, especially because both of those characters were really just based on the personalities of the guys," Stiller elaborates. "Hutch was more of a health-food guy and Starsky loved to eat food. They were both very free with women and loved to pick up women, so I think that attitude was something that we wanted to keep in the loose '70s thing, but we didn't really worry about staying totally true to the original show."

While both big-name actors have hundreds of projects offered up to them each year, the pair say taking on this particular project was an easy choice; they were fans of the original

series, eager to work with the cast—which also includes Snoop Dog, Carmen Electra, Juliet Lewis and Will Ferrell—and it featured some truly hilarious sex scenes. "I think what I look for in a script is if I think the people who are going to be involved are good, if the characters are funny or if I can make them believable," Wilson rationalizes.

"You told me you wanted to do it because of the three-way kiss scene... You basically look for any kind of sex scene with multiple partners in a script—that's kind of what attracts you to a role," Stiller interrupts.

"Well, that's why I signed up for *Zoolander*: it was the orgy scene with the goat and the dwarf," Wilson laughs.

"I like the non-politically-correct attitude those guys had back then, too," says Wilson, back to the subject at hand. "You could just be a cop, or a bad guy and just be who you were—it's fun to try to be like that," Stiller elaborates, a touch more seriously. "I think that part [of the attraction] would be the characters' attitude to be very quick to rough up a thug, their attitude towards relationships and the way men and women interact. It was kind of interesting."

During filming, Stiller and Wilson also found themselves becoming fast friends with their co-stars, enjoying the comedy that they brought to the project.

"Snoop [Dogg] was great to work with. When I'd look at the call sheet and see that Snoop was working, I knew that it would be a fun day that had a bit more of a Cheech and Chong element," Wilson quips. "I remember laughing a lot when Will Farrell came out to do his scene too, because he was just so ridiculous; he played it so straight and he's just one of those guys who makes everybody laugh. Doing a scene with him was just so funny—that was probably one of my favourite memories of shooting."

With over six comedic co-conspiratorial features under their belts, it seems Stiller and Wilson can't be beat when it comes to churning out high-brow humour. They're already so chummy that they constantly finish each other's sentences, and it doesn't look like they've got plans to part ways anytime soon—even if Wilson can't stand the sight of Stiller in tight pants and polyester.



BEN VS OWEN

Q&A WITH THE STARS OF
STARSKY AND HUTCH

The two of you both worked on *Zoolander*; would you consider *Starsky and Hutch* a similar film?

OW: "If you love *Zoolander* then it is, and if you don't like *Zoolander* then, no, it's completely different."

Do you relate to the characters in *Starsky and Hutch*?

BS: "I think Owen is a really laid-back guy in real life, but I don't know if I'm as by-the-bookish as Starsky, am I? Tell me I'm not."
OW: "No, you're not as anal-retentive as Starsky is, but I think we both tried to take a little bit of our real vibe with each other and let it come."

Did you ever consider actually becoming police officers?

BS: "I sort of had fantasies about being a cop when I was a kid, but I never really took it seriously—I think I kind of wanted to be an archeologist too, and an astronaut at one point."

Are there any other TV shows you'd like to make into movies?

BS: "I'm keeping my fingers crossed on the *Simon and Simon* movie, but I don't want to get too excited about it because it's all just talk at this point."

OW: "You were also mentioning the court movie—you know the one with the tall guy who was bald? What was that TV series... court something? John Larroquette was in it..."

BS: "Oh, *Night Court*? Yeah, totally."

If you could invite three people over for dinner, who would they be?

OW: "Well, if it's from history I'd say Winston Churchill, Mark Twain and, I don't know, maybe Picasso... mmm... and Heidi Klum."

BS: "I'm a big Nathaniel West fan, so I'd say him, Elvis, and Richard Nixon, to find out what the hell he was thinking."

OW: "Oh, I can't believe I forgot Elvis!"

If you were running for president, what would your slogan be?

BS: "Mine would probably be 'Elect me, I'm not Bush.'"



The Gateway predicts the Oscars, hates Seabiscuit

The 76th Annual Academy Awards

Hosted by Billy Crystal
Sunday, 29 February, 6pm
Showing on CTV and ABC

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Unless you live in a cave with nothing but copies of *The Gateway* for food, fuel and toilet paper, you realize that the Oscars are this weekend. But who will win? Who deserves to win? Who will stop these incessant and stupid questions? *The Gateway* will, that's who. We present to you our picks for The 76th Academy Awards.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Who should win?

Marcia Gay Harden—She had one of the many terrific performances in *Mystic River*, but Harden also benefits from a fairly weak category. Her role as the wife of a troubled possible murderer is the only performance on this list that jumps out at an obvious choice.

Who will win?

Marcia Gay Harden—she does have a previous Oscar for *Pollock* (2000) and is up against two newcomers—Shohreh Aghdashloo and Patricia Clarkson—Holly Hunter, in a role that most Academy members probably didn't see, and Renée Zellweger, whose performance is nowhere near hers.

Why are they even nominated?

Renée Zellweger—*Gold Mountain* was painfully mediocre, but then, being average hasn't stopped Zellweger from being nominated before; she also got a nod for last year's *Chicago*. Why in the sweet hell the Academy has such a hard-on for her performances is something best left to the philosophers.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR Who should win?

Tim Robbins—Robbins, unlike wife Susan Sarandon, rarely makes a bad choice when it comes to movies; he consistently delivers solid performance after solid performance, and his haunted character in *Mystic River* is no exception. Besides, he deserves the statuette for being overlooked for *The Shawshank Redemption*. That said, he'll probably get overlooked for compatriots Sean Penn and Marcia Gay Harden.

Who will win?

Benicio Del Toro—*21 Grams* was by no means perfect, but it featured some absolutely terrific performances throughout. It's the type of movie that the Academy will probably give at least one award to, and Del Toro arguably turned in the best performance. He's also won the Oscar before, which usually helps when garnering votes from the red carpet weasels that run Tinseltown.

Why are they even nominated?

Ken Watanabe—*The Last Samurai* should not win any award that doesn't have the word "cos-tume" in the title, least of all one that combines both the words "best" and "actor."

BEST ACTRESS

Who should win?

Charlize Theron—Not discounting her performance, which was terrific, but the Academy really likes it when its big, beautiful movie stars dress down; witness Julia Roberts' Oscar for *Erin Brockovich*, which featured more of her dressing white trash than acting. Couple this fact with Theron's Golden Globe win, which always impresses, and even if her performance was half as good as it was, she'd still probably be the front runner.

Why are they even nominated?

Diane Keaton—Evidently my mother is now an Academy member, because that's the only way this Better-Homes-and-Gardens-masturbation masquerading as a real movie could possibly be nominated for anything, let alone an acting award. Forgetting the fact that this movie is horrible, you're still left with Keaton in a performance one step above "mailed in." With phenomenal acting by Scarlett Johansson (*Lost in Translation*) and Hope Davis (*American Splendor*) completely overlooked, this nomination is beyond inexcusable.



BEST ACTOR

Who should win?

Bill Murray—if Murray keeps up this way, it will only be a matter of time before he erases the memory of his slightly satisfactory roles in the mid-'90s and cements himself as one of the subtlest, most talented actors in Hollywood. Everything Murray has done since *Rushmore* has been brilliantly nuanced, and *Lost in Translation*, while still excellent, wouldn't be the movie it is without his turn as a melancholy, fading movie star. The movie is worth watching solely to see Murray drift across the screen with an ironic smile and sad eyes.

Who will win?

Sean Penn—Despite the fact Murray has caused certain people to repeatedly jizz their pants, it's just not the type of thing the Academy usually goes for. That said, Penn is more than deserving of an Award for his furious portrayal of a father whose daughter has been murdered. *Mystic River* has so many powerful performances, it has to win one of the major acting awards, and Penn was one of the best in the film. He is also well deserving of recognition after his fairly illustrious career.

Why are they even nominated?

Johnny Depp—Johnny Depp is a fantastic actor, but an acting nomination for *Pirates of the Caribbean* is more ridiculous than disposable paper underwear. Sure it was a fun popcorn movie, but after overlooking Depp for movies like *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Ed Wood* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*, it's an insult to give him the Oscar for this flick—that's like punching him in the throat to make him forget that you already kicked him in the groin.

MOVIE

Who should win?

Lost in Translation—Subtle, stirring and beautiful, this will be one movie that goes beyond the "Best of the Year" category and will find a place among most peoples' top ten films of all time. It should probably be mandatory for everyone to view it before they can graduate from University.

Who will win?

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King—The quality of the first two films essentially guaranteed this one the best picture Oscar, so this award will be the final crowning glory of what could be called—without exaggeration—the greatest movie trilogy of all time. Peter Jackson faced impossibly high expectations creating this feature and he went beyond them in almost every respect; he should probably be in the running for his third consecutive Academy Award. Given that he isn't, if the Academy doesn't recognize this, the best of the three movies, they might as well not give out another Oscar ever again.

Why are they even nominated?

Seabiscuit—The above two movies, not to mention Clint Eastwood's magnificent *Mystic River*, make this one of the strongest list of nominees in recent memory—until you get to this abomination of a cinematic piece. Two thumbs down for *Seabiscuit*, good sir.

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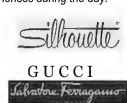
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Prairie Tales an eclectic mix

Prairie Tales 6

A collection of Alberta short films
 Opens Friday, 28 March
 Metro Cinema

DAVE BERRY
 Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you have the attention span of a goldfish or even just some homegrown prairie pride, then you'll be sure to enjoy *Prairie Tales 6*, the latest annual installment of Alberta short films.

Once again, the joint effort from the Metro Cinema Society and the Alberta Media Arts Alliance Society is returning to showcase short film and video works from artists across Alberta. And once again, the offerings range from avant-garde art-films to the most straightforward of documentaries, with an equal range in the quality of the films involved. While some are engrossing and destined to be the short films the CBC shows before shutting down for the night, others are decidedly less so.

The montage begins with *Second Coming* in the 2nd Grade, a straightforward, child-acted short film about a young Hindu girl who takes Catholic communion. While the children are cute and perform well for seven-year-olds, this is sadly far too simply presented to be anything more than an elementary school classroom film.

Second Coming is followed by two films that lean towards the post-modern edge of film, *Becoming* and *Paramount*. In addition to *Subliminal* and *Easy not Easy*, these represent the arthouse portion of the presentation. With the exception of *Easy not Easy*—which features only a single shot with a 911 call playing in the background—all of these films suffer from trying to be



so "boundary-breaking" they border on stereotypical. They are pieces of art, to be sure, but that doesn't make either very interesting or worthwhile to sit through.

Returning to somewhat less avant-garde films, *Dream of the Dragon* is a dreamlike movie about a geologist who begins sniffing gas after experiencing troubles at work. It works well for the most part, but suffers a little from the overly obvious nature of a Don Quixote-style theme running throughout.

Following that is a similarly ethereal film featuring aliens singing, appropriately titled *Alien*; it's one of three animated films, *Ctrl+C* and *Carma* being the others. *Alien* is sufficiently odd enough to be interesting, and *Carma* is mildly amusing enough to appear on Teletoon as a time-filler, but *Ctrl+C* is the best of the lot. Brought to life with computer graphics, it examines genetic manipulation using captivating visuals and sound bites that swirl in a cacophony of sound.

Of the documentary-type films, *My Brother Joe* and *Alfred* are fine, both

using a similar presentation—grainy video and voiceover—to tell their stories, about a filmmaker and a mechanic respectively. Comparatively, *Consider Artists*—about the Nina Hagerty Centre for the Arts—is little more than an infomercial for the Centre, which helps treat people with disabilities through art. The final documentary, *A Change of Face*, is about one man's experiences with a moustache. It's not terrific, but its mildly quirky sense of humour and straightforward style give it the best shot of any of these to get widespread attention.

Appropriately, they save the best of the bunch for last, with the odd and surprisingly beautiful *Tangly Wood*. Using a puppet and little dialogue, the filmmakers create an emotional film about an artist rejected by her family, though the ending leaves something to be desired.

Overall, the films represent the best of what Alberta has to offer in a wide range of fields. Though some are less than stellar, the collection is a treat for those of us who like to support local artists.

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Drunk skinheads no match for friends of Charlie

Five O'Clock Charlie
with The John Beer Band
and House Doctor
Friday, 27 February
Red's

MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Most up-and-coming bands trying to make some noise on the local music scene wouldn't have a problem with people coming to their shows, but when an iron-cross-wearing skinhead showed up at one of the early shows of the alt-pop group Five O'Clock Charlie, the boys were more nervously amused than thrilled.

"Dead Jesus was playing downstairs and this drunk skinhead wandered upstairs and came up to the stage asking us to 'speed it up' in the middle of our set," laughs Five O'Clock Charlie's lead singer, Craig Schram. "The next song was a bit more upbeat, which got the guy stomping around yelling, 'Come on! Come on!' trying to get people to mosh. Our friends eventually took him aside to calm him down, and told us afterwards that he had a switch blade in his jacket."

Besides drunken huncos and incredibly brave friends, Five O'Clock Charlie has been quickly gaining fans over their two-year existence. Made up of four friends from St. Albert, the group attended different high schools before coming together to form their current musical endeavour. Schram, a

U of A business student, was already playing with guitarist Steve Thir when the band started to form. "Dave [Magher] was a bit of a hand-wrecker," Schram jokingly reminisces about their drummer. "He would join with anybody and everybody, but we recruited him for us."

"Dead Jesus was playing downstairs and this drunk skinhead wandered upstairs and came up to the stage asking us to 'speed it up' in the middle of our set."

CRAIG SCHRAM

"I met Craig at a party and he was singing along to Weezer," recalls the quiet but outspoken bassist Trevor Belley. "He said that I should come play with them but it wasn't until I saw their show that I knew I wanted to perform with them."

And perform they have; starting with small shows at local coffee houses and working their way up to the local scene, the band has played with Fractal Pattern at the Siderack Café and are now looking forward to headlining a show at Red's.

Defeating stereotypes of a down-on-their-luck local group, the group admits that they haven't had too much

trouble breaking into the music business and finding people to play with. "We're not really a musical extreme of anything, which makes it easy for us to get gigs," Muses Belley, as he sprawls sideways over an easy chair. "I guess if Dave is a band whore, then we are all genre whores. But we still put up posters and make sure people know about our shows—that kind of promoting comes with the territory."

With all the hard work they have been putting in, Five O'Clock Charlie is starting to see results, separating themselves from the wannabes and aiming to make themselves a fixture on the local scene. "All the money we make goes into the band," says Schram. "We're hopefully going to have our CD out this summer; we're going into the studio to mix it and having the layout done professionally. We're going to be putting a lot of money—it's going to be really good."

It seems like Five O'Clock Charlie has everything in place to establish themselves on the local scene, but they aren't resting on their laurels yet. "We're playing a gig in Calgary and might take a jaunt to Winnipeg and back," Schram speculates.

"But I'm not too keen on driving our overfilled, 1980s van across Canada. We all want to finish school, but we want to go to this as far as it will take us. Montréal, Vancouver ... The Canmore Hotel—wherever it takes us."

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THE GATEWAY IS HIRING!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2004-2005 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2005 and pays \$1475/mo* from mid-August to April. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2004/2005 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to [Gateway Business Manager \(Don Iveson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca\)](mailto:Gateway Business Manager (Don Iveson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)) by noon on Friday 27 February 2004. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

LINE EDITORS

The Gateway is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2004-2005 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR, SENIOR NEWS EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR, OPINION EDITOR, SPORTS EDITOR, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, PHOTO EDITOR, PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2003 to 30 April 2004. The paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April, during which Managing and Senior News will receive \$1395* per month; News, Opinion, Sports, Entertainment, Photo and Production will receive \$1155* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to [Gateway Business Manager \(Don Iveson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca\)](mailto:Gateway Business Manager (Don Iveson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)) by noon on Friday 5 March 2004. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/irc/

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THE GATEWAY

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president Adam Cook

As both a volunteer and employee of the Students' Union, I understand how the SU serves students and where improvements can be made.

As a Student Councilor, Community Relations Coordinator, Orientation Team Facilitator, Chair of the Audit Committee and Academic Guidance Centre staff, I have gained the broad knowledge of the SU that's required as President.

From this knowledge, I've come to realize the aspects of the SU that need

improvement. As the voice of students, I will:

- ensure all stakeholders are involved in making decisions affecting students
- bring solutions, not complaints, to government and administration
- fight to ensure accessibility becomes a priority

As the head of your SU, I will:

- refocus our bars to become places that students will actually go to
- provide express email stations across campus
- make SUB a year-round 24-hour space

For more on my experience and platform visit www.voteadamcook.com.



president Jordan Blatz

My name is Jordan Blatz and I am running to be your next Students' Union President. I am a 4th year student in the Faculty Business with a major in Small Business and Entrepreneurship. I have spent the past 4 years living in Lister Hall where I am currently the President of the Lister Hall Students' Association.

Living in residence has been a great experience and one that has taught me a lot about leadership and building community.

As your S.U. President, I will use my experience and leadership abilities to make the Students' Union run the best it possibly can for you, the students!

If you want to find out more about me and what I am all about, come check out the election forums or my website at www.JordanBlatz.ca, and remember on March 3 and 4th, vote Jordan Blatz for Students' Union President.



vp academic Lisa McLaughlin

Hi there! I have been a student at the U of A for five years - and I LOVE it here! But, there are problems, and I want this university to get serious about addressing them.

Your tuition rises year after year, but why has the quality of your education been falling? Why are you expected to learn from TAs you can't even understand? Why aren't there more "good" profs, and what is a "good" prof anyway? Why are so many eager and qualified students

unable to succeed in university?

It's time to stop looking for band aid solutions and get to the roots of the problems affecting your educational experiences. I believe in my ability to make strides as your VP (Academic), but I will be expecting your input to guide me in creating the best possible learning environment for you and your successors.

For more information about my platform and experience, please pick up a pamphlet at one of my tables, check out my website at www.lisa4vp.com, e-mail me at lisa.mclaughlin@ualberta.ca, and come to a forum! Get the quality you deserve.



vp academic Vivek Sharma

As a fourth year Sociology Student, I've been involved in the Orientation program on campus three years in a row, served the Student's Union as a councilor for two years, written the odd article for the Gateway, worked for the Alberta Public Interest Research Group and debated students across Western Canada.

I've juggled jobs, extracurricular stuff and classes just like everyone else, so I'm interested in making all that a little

easier next year by getting more out of the resources we pay for like computers, campus services and Beartracks.

Some students don't find out about where labs or services are until it's too late, and that can be fixed by putting students in contact with people who've already done what they need to do. If students had opportunities to connect with each other online and through campus services, they'd be able to plan how to work through their courses faster and easier.



vp external Alex Abboud

With vision, a record, and experience, Alex Abboud is the strong choice for Vice-President External.

Alex Abboud will:

- Raise awareness and make post-secondary education an issue in the Federal, Municipal, and Provincial elections by executing our Federal 'Rush the Vote' program encouraging participation among youth, and by using effective third-party advertising in the Municipal and Provincial elections.

•Take the case for post-secondary

investment and tuition relief into Alberta's communities by working with community leaders, particularly those in the University Senate, to reach voters in both Urban and Rural areas.

- Strengthen our message to the public by involving Faculty Associations, Residences, and Student Groups in our efforts.
- Work for affordable housing and transportation.
- Push for meaningful student loan reform, particularly for the removal of the parental contribution requirement and an increase in living allowance and tax-deductible school expenses.

On March 3rd and 4th, vote Alex Abboud for Vice-President External.

www.alexabboud.ca



vp external Heather Wallace

Not very many people get excited about student politics, but I believe that's because they don't realize the power they wield to affect change. I am running for student government because I have the commitment, organization and enthusiasm necessary to effectively use that power.

Since I have come to the U of A, I've sought to make the most of my time on campus. I'm a political science major/ French minor. As an Arts Councilor I worked hard and I'm willing to put in

the hours it takes to empower students. This year, I've made every effort to listen to students and their concerns and worked to promote SU campaigns that make a difference.

As VP External I will continue my efforts to promote a consistent and coherent message allowing us to use our power to the greatest advantage.



www.su.ualberta.ca/election04



vp ops & finance **Josh Bazin**

My name is Josh Bazin and I want to be your Vice President Operations and Finance. If elected, it is my first priority to work with the Students' Union senior management and the new Vice President Student Life to work on the atmospheres in the Powerplant and RATT. It is my second goal to investigate the viability and desirability of a student health insurance plan on the U of A campus. Other objectives for the year include:

- Bringing more food selections to our establishments, including a larger selection of vegetarian and vegan foods.
- Working with the GSA to transform Dewey's into an alternative coffee bar.
- Renovating Dinwoodie Lounge to better serve live bands.

When it comes to making your SU functional and effective, I don't josh. Vote Bazin for Vice President Operations and Finance.



vp ops & finance **Alvin Law**

Hey, I'm Alvin Law and I want to be your SU Vice President of Operations and Finance for the upcoming year!

As a third year Mechanical Engineering student and the Associate Vice President of Services for the Engineering Students' Society, I possess the professionalism, dedication and responsibility to fulfill such a position.

I bring experiences from all over campus through my involvement with the U of A Concert Band, Student Life Board,

Safewalk, and Orientation. This varied background allows representation spanning throughout campus. I pride myself on not being confined to niches and this is what I offer to you.



VP Student Life **Duncan Taylor**

Hi! I'm Duncan Taylor and I'm a 4th year Environmental Biology major. Over my time at the UofA, I've been involved in Safewalk, Orientation, the Alpine Ski Racing Club and the Delta Chi fraternity, 1 year as a member of Student Council, was VP Communications of the Science Faculty Association, and sat on the Student Life Board to help run WoW, Antifreeze and the SU Christmas Party for Kids.

If elected VP Student Life, I would like to help work with the student groups and

services on campus to help increase their visibility.

I would like to ensure close communications with the residences, especially now that the RHA no longer holds a seat on Student Council. Finally, I would like to improve the sense of community on campus by helping to improve the first year experience to ease transition into university, and improving the quality of SU run events.



VP Student Life **Tyler Daignault**

What's the good word? My name is Tyler Daignault and I have been here a long time. In my six years on campus I've seen and done just about everything, and simply can't get enough of this University.

Contrary to popular belief, I will graduate this decade, but in the meantime I have dedicated myself to all aspects of Student Life, especially since I am not allowed within 100 metres of Academics.

I have gained experience in this area by becoming a fanatical volunteer

for the Students' Union. I have been a participant or coordinator for WoW, Antifreeze, Christmas Party for Kids, and have spent five great years in the Orientation program. I am also a Student-at-Large for the Programming Committee, a committee dedicated to organizing and running sweet new events on campus, and revitalizing past ones.

Amongst my goals are to rejuvenate the Power Plant, revitalize WOW and increase awareness of campus services and venues.

This is your campus. This is your life. Rise up and live it.



VP Student Life **Carmen Gustafson**

In my four years in the AFHE faculty, I have been an intramural council member, VP Communications, a busy volunteer and most recently I spent a term studying in Finland.

I have tremendous pride in our university community. We have great student leaders, a plethora of "firsts and bests", excellent athletics and fantastic student services.

Ideally, University should be a time of learning, about yourself and about the world. With support from your VP Student Life and your SU, you should be able to take part in what ever you desire. You should feel that there is somebody looking out for your interests, and a body that can provide you with the tools you need to live your life to its fullest.

Parties are great, but balance is vitally important to our health and ability to perform to our greatest potential.

Exercise democracy and VOTE! Remember Carmen for VP Student Life.



VP Student Life **Mike Schwake**

Now I'm not going to start off by stating the obvious, list off some random facts and figures, nor will I list failures of predecessors. Telling you what to think is not cool at all.

Hi, My Name is Michael Schwake and I am running for your VP Student Life.

I am in my 5th year of University on this campus, and if I have learned one thing, it's that you need balance. A proper balance between fun and Alma Matter gives us focus keyed to success.

If elected what would I plan to do, well basically my job, using experience from my various on and off campus involvement to bring innovation and balance to the portfolio of Vice President Student Life. To learn more about me and my platform visit my website at:

www.voteschwake.com or contact me: mschwake@ualberta.ca.

March 3rd and 4th Vote Mike Schwake your #1 choice for Vice President Student Life.



Board of Governors Roman Kotovych

Hi! My name is Roman Kotovych, and I'm seeking re-election for the position of BOG Rep.

The Board of Governors is the highest governing body of the University. Over the past year, I attempted to reduce the tuition increase from 5.3% to 3.4%, hosted consultation forums, reduced spending on SU elections, and raised undergraduate concerns on issues like the smoking ban proposal and the Augustana College merger.

My new priorities in the upcoming year include the University's examination of tuition as an institutional priority, helping empower faculty associations to push student priorities at the ground level, and voicing a student perspective on University growth, government reinvestment, and the quality of our education.

I am a first-year law student involved in the Debate Society, Delta Chi, and Student Legal Services. I encourage you to contact me at roman4bog@hotmail.com or grab a pamphlet to find out more.

Re-elect Roman for BOG!



Board of Governors Michael Hunka

Mike Hunka, the man, the myth, the icon, is running for SU BOG Representative. Mike Hunka is a third year "professional" general science student. So, reading this, why would anyone vote for a "professional" student with no scholastic direction other than to learn?

Mike Hunka is just an average student who is not in this election to boost a future career in Law or Medicine but in reaction to his frustration with the SU's and BOG Reps of the past three years.

Mike Hunka won't lie to you that tuition isn't going up but he will fight to keep it down.

Accessibility, accountability, and honesty will be the hallmarks of Mike Hunka's campaign. On election day, see through the broken promises of the past and vote for a future. Vote Hunka!

Referendum U Pass YES

The Universal Pass is a chance for students to save lots of money and help stem some of the University's institutional woes. For a mere \$60 a semester, all full-time undergraduates will receive passes unconditionally valid on the Edmonton, St. Albert and Strathcona County Transit systems.

Students currently commuting by bus or train stand to save over \$300 a year. And for those of us who don't use transit everyday, four return trips a month are all that's needed to profit. The University also wins; if fewer students drive to school, they're under less pressure to finance parkade construction and parking services. And, of course, there are environmental benefits: less waste, less pollution, less smog. Not only that, travel to and from school will speed up as roads become decongested. Lastly, guaranteed new revenue is a huge impetus for better transit service; thus, more frequent schedules can be expected.

Referendum U Pass NO

This January, the University raised your tuition by \$228. Now, the Students' Union is running a referendum on raising your fees by another \$120.

For several years, the SU has been trying to negotiate a universal bus pass. Edmonton Transit has shown absolutely no desire to agree to a fair deal. Yet the SU is now running this referendum to raise your fees by \$120 to pay for the still-to-be-negotiated universal bus pass.

This referendum proposes that even if you never ride buses, you should pay for the universal bus pass. Whether you live near campus, in residence, or are on a tight budget, you will still have to pay.

Moreover, by voting in favour of this referendum, we block the SU from negotiating a better deal.

To learn more about the universal bus pass and the problems with this referendum, visit www.u-pass.ca or visit one of our tables.

Vote NO to the Universal Bus Pass.

Referendum Legacy Fund YES

The Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund is a Students' Union fee that costs each undergraduate student \$3.36 per Fall or Winter term. It goes to support varsity athletics teams (i.e. Golden Bears and Pandas) to help them to travel and compete outside of the conference. The problems with this fee are twofold:

1. Undergraduate students already pay the University a hefty Athletics and Recreation fee, the vast majority of which goes to varsity athletics, even as Campus Recreation facilities and programs remain too starved for cash to meet ever-increasing demand from ordinary students such as yourselves.
2. In the nineties, varsity athletics ran up a huge accumulated deficit, which was ultimately largely covered by the University's base budget. If your tuition dollars are going to be used to support varsity athletics anyway, why have a Students' Union fee to do so on top of that?

On March 3 and 4, think about whether or not this is somewhere you want your money going.

For more information check out www.abolishthelegacyfund.ca.



www.su.ualberta.ca/election04

How does a preferential ballot work?

A preferential ballot is where you rank the candidates for a given position based on your preference for the candidate. Your first choice for the position would be marked with a "1", your second choice with a "2", and so on. You do not have to rank each candidate. For each race there is also a "None of the Above" option, which can be ranked just like a candidate. If "None of the Above" wins, a new election will be called for that position.

Upon adding the totals of a race, if no candidate receives over 50% of the ballots based on the first choice of the voters, then the candidate who received the fewest votes is dropped from the race and the second choice from that candidate's votes are distributed. If no candidate receives over 50% of that total, then the process continues until one candidate has received 50% of the vote.

How to mark your ballot

Like most multiple choice exams, you have to completely fill in the bubble that represents your vote, and make sure that the mark is black and there are no stray marks on the ballot.

Only completely shaded bubbles will be considered a valid vote - so mark your ballots properly to get counted!

Where do I vote, & what do I need?

There will be 19 campus polling stations all across the University of Alberta campus on March 3 and 4. The voting hours on Wednesday March 3 will be 9:00AM to 9:00PM and 9:30 to 8:00PM on Thursday March 4.

In order to vote you will need your ONE card which you will present to a poll clerk to ensure you do not vote twice in the election.

Faculty Councilor Elections

In addition to the SU President, the four Vice Presidents and the Board of Governors representative, the Students' Union holds elections for faculty councilors. These elections take place on March 18 and 19, and determine the composition of Students' Council, the highest body of the Students' Union as well as the General faculties Council, the highest Academic Legislative body of the University.

Be sure come out and vote for your faculty representatives.



Students' Union General Election, 2004

Notice to Voters:

In each race, please rank each candidate according to your preference by filling in the appropriate ranking circle for him/her.

-You are permitted to rank as many as all of the candidates or as few as zero for each position.

- "None Of the Above" shall be considered a candidate to be ranked.

A section of your ballot may be declared spoiled if any of the following is true:

- 1) You have filled in the same ranking for more than one candidate per position. For example, you cannot rank two candidates for President as number 1.
- 2) You do not fill in the number one (1) next to any candidate. You must specify a number one choice for any race you want to vote in.
- 3) You indicate more than one ranking next to a candidate. For example, if you rank one candidate as both your first and second choice, your ballot will be spoiled.
- 4) You have used non-consecutive numbers for ranking.

Rank all choices
consecutively

President

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Pepsi 1 2 3
Space Moose 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

First choice only

Vice President (Academic)

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Tom Selleck 1 2 3
Pez 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

First choice and the
None of the Above

Vice President (External)

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Pepsi 1 2 3
Space Moose 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

Vice President (Operations and Finance)

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Tom Selleck 1 2 3
Pez 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

One ranking for
two people

Vice President (Student Life)

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Pepsi 1 2 3
Space Moose 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

Two rankings for
one person

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative (BoG)

Ranking: 1st 2nd 3rd
Tom Selleck 1 2 3
Pez 1 2 3
None of the Above 1 2 3

A gap in the
ranking order

Referendum

Please refer to the Referendum Questions sheet for the exact wording of the Referendum, then indicate your vote here:

☒ yes ☐ no

THE PEP RALLY

Volleyball

Tighten your boot straps and put on your gardening pants Mabel, the **Pandas** (18-0 Canada West, 2-0 in playoffs) are hosting the Canada West Final Four championships this weekend. What boots and gardening, or Mabel for that matter, have to do with championship volleyball, I don't know, but I do know that our spade-wielding horticulturalists/volleyballers will be killing much more than ficus plants at 8pm Friday against the University of Manitoba Bisons. When they win, they'll play again Saturday at 8pm in the gold medal game. Also of interest, Go Pandas Go!

There is more than one University volleyball team down to the "Final Four", however. Despite the fact the name of this "tournament" is blatantly ripped off from the US college basketball tournament, don't expect our **Bears** (15-5 Canada West, 2-1 play-offs) to not show up or shave their heads in protest. No sir, you can see our boys, with full heads of Luxurion, conditioned hair, take on the University of Saskatchewan Huskies at 5pm in Winnipeg, and again at 7pm for the gold medal game. You ready for that? Oh yeah, you're ready for that. You were born ready for that.

Hockey

It looks like Canada West has a massive raging championship boner this weekend, because the hockey **Pandas** (1,000,000-0 Canada West, 2-0 playoffs) are also in town this weekend, and are also playing in the Canada West championship. While they haven't actually won a million games, they are indeed as sure a thing as Chris Boute's mom at last call, so the University of Saskatchewan Huskies don't stand much of a chance. The games go at 7pm both Friday and Saturday in Clare "Undefeated" Drake Arena. There is a Sunday game as well, if necessary, but it won't be, so you I won't even bother giving you the time.

Track and Field

What the sweet hell? Track and Field is listed above a real sport in *The Pep Rally!* Glorious Day, if you happen to be a track and/or fielder. Well, they deserve this special honour, given that, in keeping with the championship boner, the Canada West track conference championships go this weekend in Winnipeg. We're sending 19 lucky guys and 16 lucky girls, in what can only be described as a generally unequal good time. Run fast, or jump high or throw, or whatever it is you people do. Track! Field! And! Woooloo!

Basketball

It's a sad day in Mudville, or wherever it is the basketball **Bears** (14-6 Canada West, 2-0 playoffs) dwell, as they're only playing in a mere playoff game, and not an actual conference championship. And they're listed underneath track and field. Sadness. Oh well, we still love you. Though in all fairness, that love depends solely on whether or not you can beat the Dinos in Calgary this weekend, both Friday and Saturday at 7pm this weekend. There is also a game Sunday, but it better not be necessary, if you still want our love and your families to remain unharmed, if you catch my drift.

On the Record with Joel Landschury

Joel: You know, drinking water from the water cooler just isn't the same since we ran out of styrofoam cups.

Me: I agree, the water doesn't seem to taste as good as it once did.

Joel: That's because the styrofoam cups give the water a hug, and it makes the water happy and want to taste better for you.

Me: You know, you're right, what this water could use is a nice big styrofoam hug.

Joel: The water's not the only one who needs a big hug, Dave.

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Huggly Bear

Volleyball Pandas prepped for Final Four

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

If the Pandas are at all worried about their upcoming Final Four tournament this weekend, their attitude in practice is no indication. Opening practice with a game of frisbee, the Pandas seem confident in their preparation for the weekend's first match against the Manitoba Bisons, who boast the league's leader in kills, right side Genevieve Larmare.

In their previous meeting, the Pandas defeated Manitoba by scores of 3-0 and 3-1, but recently-named coach of the year Laurie Eisler won't be letting her team take the task of moving on in the tournament lightly, emphasizing a rigid work ethic. "We work hard here. We're probably one of the hardest working teams in the country. It's not easy to be a Panda," said Eisler with a smile. "They have to put up with me, for one thing."

The team's work ethic has paid off; they finished the season as the top-ranked team in the Canada West, edging out second-place Calgary and third-place UBC by one win in the standings. Manitoba was ranked fourth, but Eisler, acknowledging the strength of the Bisons and the threat they could pose this weekend, won't let her team get caught looking ahead to a possible Battle of Alberta against Calgary in the final. "We're really trying to focus on Manitoba right now, because that's such a huge match just getting past the first round," said Eisler. "The big key for success against them will be trying to stop [Larmare], who's a strong 25-year-old [who stands at] 6'4". We have to find a way to deal with her. We know we won't be able to stop her, but you don't want her walking all over you."

With such a large height advantage, the onus will be on the backcourt defense, as Larmare has the ability to go over the frontline wall. Third-year starting libero Janna Konihowski is aware of the damage Larmare can potentially cause. "The most important thing is to not get frustrated at the plays that score. We know she can go around the block, she can hit over the block and she can find the seams," said Konihowski. "We're going to do our best not to get frustrated against her, and just go with the flow of the match."



FILE PHOTO: AFRY GREENAUS

BACKCOURT DEFENCE Pandas libero Janna Konihowski (2) will get a lot of work this weekend.

Being the only sport in the Main Gyn this weekend, the Pandas should have a larger audience in attendance than last weekend's series against Regina that fell at the end of Reading Week. "It's definitely more comfortable [in front of a home crowd]. Plus we don't have to travel the week before, so it's a huge advantage," said Konihowski. "But [in the event of a gold medal match against the Dinos], Calgary's not too far

away so they also get fans up here when we play them. It could be a tough crowd to play in front of, but that would be great preparation for nationals."

The tournament begins with UBC versus Calgary at 6pm and Alberta versus Manitoba at 8pm on both Friday and Saturday night. The bronze medal match goes Sunday at 6pm, with the gold medal match following at 8pm.

Bears volleyball team excelling during 'rebuilding' year

RYAN OHASHI
Sports Writer

With only one player returning from last year's National finals starting six and a large group of very talented but inexperienced players, it was supposed to be a "rebuilding" year. Yet after finishing the season 31-11-0, a record good enough to place them as the second-best team in the country and clinch a spot in CIS Nationals, the volleyball Bears have surpassed everyone's

expectations but their own. Mention it to Bears co-captain Leo Carroll, and he's more likely to show you how they can play on the court then spout it to your face.

"I know a lot of people have been saying things like this was a rebuilding year, but I think that we've shown that it's turned out to be a lot more than that," said Carroll, the generally reserved 6'9" middle who currently ranks third in the Canada West for blocks and is the only player from last year's starting six.

The other side of this dynamic duo of Bears co-captains is the high-octane 6'2" power Aaron Schulha, who in his past three seasons led Red Deer College to three consecutive CCAA National titles. Schulha, along with two other players from RDC, setter Brock Daviduk and outside hitter Nicholas Cundy, have made an immediate impact in their first year starting for the green and gold, Cundy and Daviduk having both been chosen for the first and second Can West All-Star teams, respectively.

"This team is pretty interesting. We have a couple first-year guys starting and a couple of college guys starting," said Schulha. "But only having one starting player back from a team that made it to a national championship and going back to a national championship, it shows a lot about our team."

The Bears now look to continue their march towards the National championship with a key match in the Can West semifinal this Friday in Manitoba against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

"Leo and I have talked about it and the top two from Canada West will probably be the top two seeds for nationals so Friday night is a huge match for us," said Schulha. "You can't afford to have an off game especially in Can West since it's the best conference in Canada."

"Leo being the only starter back and with guys like Ryan Taylor and Brad Bell and Pascal [Cardinal] who've been leaders for the past couple years leaving, we've had a pretty good core of guys come in this year, obviously," Schulha said of the team, adding with a smile, "It would be quite the 'rebuilding' year to end up winning a national championship."



FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENEDY

TRIPLE THREAT The Bears are looking for success at the upcoming Canada West Finals.

Hockey Pandas await spoil-sport Huskies

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

The undefeated Pandas hockey team will defend their Canada West championship against a surprising challenger this weekend, as the Saskatchewan Huskies will try to score their second huge upset in as many weeks.

After knocking off the then-fifth-ranked Regina Cougars two games to one in last weekend's conference semifinal, the Huskies (10-13-0, including playoffs) will enter Clare Drake Arena with more momentum than any opponent the Pandas (22-0-0) have faced this year. For the Pandas, who've had a tendency to start slowly at times this season, a quick start will be key to defusing the surging Huskies and continuing the dominance they've displayed all year.

"We have to put a lot of offensive pressure on them early to try and crack their defensive shell," said Pandas head coach Howie Draper. "We've got to make sure that we're outpacing them from the time the puck's dropped. The quicker we can apply a great deal of pressure, the quicker we can demoralize them."

Saskatchewan plays a tight defensive style that has often kept them closer to the Pandas than most other teams manage, and with the momentum they'll be bringing into the series, Alberta can expect to face a tougher challenge than they've seen in some time.

"When we played against them last time, they shut down our fine line. And they've got two very good goalkeepers," said Draper. "They're typically very intense and tenacious, and we certainly have to match their energy, if not surpass it, to be successful."



IT'S OKAY, IATE SUBWAY Pandas forward Lindsay McAlpine on the boards. FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBB

Both teams qualified for the national championships by virtue of their semi-final wins, but Pandas goaltender Robyn Rittmaster says that the Canada West title will provide plenty of motivation for both teams, particularly the underdog Huskies as they try to prove that they can play with the Pandas.

"Obviously they're more confident now," said Rittmaster. "If you can beat Regina, you can beat anybody. With a banner on the line, I'm expecting a better game and more shots than I usually see."

Rittmaster said that her counterparts from Saskatchewan, Robin Nuttall and Erin McKay, will determine how much success the Huskies are able to have this weekend.

"Their goalkeepers are playing really well right now, and they're one of the hardest-working teams in Canada West," said Rittmaster. "[Their chances] depend on their goaltending. When they get hot, they can win games for them."

But regardless of how well the Huskies repel the fierce Panda attack, Draper is confident that his troops will be able to make a statement on the scoreboard.

"One thing we have that they don't have is offensive punch," said Draper. "They may keep us off the scoresheet for a while, but eventually we should be able to break that bubble, and once that happens we should be okay."

The series will be the final home action for Rittmaster before she graduates after her fifth CIS year and second as a Panda. She hasn't experienced a loss during her time at the U of A, and the conference championship would be a fitting farewell.

"It's exciting," she said. "I've had a lot of fun and learned a lot while I've been here, and I just want to finish it off on a good note."

The first two games of the series will be played at 7pm Friday and Saturday nights, with game three at 2pm Sunday if necessary.



This guy is intense. He and his five brothers have unlocked their magical Shaolin Kung-Fu powers and are going to use them to beat the EVIL team. What's his secret? He reads THE GATEWAY Sports section every Tuesday and Thursday. You should too. Oh wait, you already are. Sorry.

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Hoops Bears to go to Calgary for playoff series

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

Basketball practices during a team's playoff run are usually an interesting situation. Some coaches take the approach that their players aren't going to be any more fit than they already are, and won't run them hard in order to keep them ready for games. Golden Bears head coach Don Horwood doesn't take this approach.

"We run drills with punishment. If you lose, you run," Horwood explains. "If (the players) can't run for 90 minutes at this time of the year, they're not in good enough shape. We don't want to let our conditioning down."

The Calgary Dinos in the Canada West Central Division Final will put the Bears stamina to the test this weekend. Calgary has gotten the best of

the Bears on three separate occasions this season, and if this didn't pose enough of a challenge for the Bears, they'll be going into Cowtown without the dominant inside presence of Phil Sudol, the team's leading rebounder, whose season came to an end recently when he tore both his ACL and MCL. Alberta will certainly feel Sudol's absence, but Horwood thinks his team will get to show off their depth this weekend, as there are many eager faces to fill the gap that Sudol has left. "I'm really sincere when I say that I think we could be better right now," said Horwood. "I'm excited about what posts Kevin (Pettersson), Scott (Gordon) and Brandon (Park) can do. As much as we like Phil, when he's on the floor, all the players and coaches are trying to get him the ball. We've kind of ignored these other guys. And now these other guys are going to get the ball more."

Watching the Bears practice, one player who seems more than ready to step in for Sudol is fifth-year post Kevin Pettersson. A big player who knows how to use his size, Pettersson has been a hungry rebounder and has shown a soft touch under the basket as of late. Horwood has nothing but praise for Pettersson. "Kevin is hampered by severe tendonitis; you can't ask anymore from him than what he's giving us. I have tremendous respect for him," commented Horwood.

Horwood has been impressed with the play of his entire frontcourt since last weekend. "I think [the frontcourt reserves] might surprise other teams, because everybody's used to preparing for Sudol, but they're not used to preparing for Scott, Kevin or Brandon, because normally they don't get many shots," said Horwood.

"Right now, we're not as one-dimensional as we were when Phil was in the game," Horwood said. "That wasn't Phil's fault either; we're one-dimensional because we want him to have the ball. Now we have a few more options. In some ways, it may in fact help us. It may make us more versatile."

The Bears will play in Calgary on both Friday and Saturday night at 7pm, with a 2pm Sunday game to be played if necessary.



GUT CHECK Bears guard Mike Melnychuk. FILE PHOTO: LEANN FONG

COME
WATCH US
play



Pandas Volleyball

Conference Championship

Final Four at U of A Main Gym

Friday, Feb. 27

#1 Calgary (17-3) vs. #4 UBC (16-4)

6 p.m. Main Gym

#5 Manitoba (10-10) at #2 Alberta

8 p.m. Main Gym

Saturday, Feb. 28

Bronze: Day 1 non-winners, 6 p.m.

Gold: Day 1 winners, 8 p.m.

Note: top three teams advance to
CIS Championship, March 4-6 at U of
Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Pandas Hockey

Best-of-three
Canada West Final

Friday, Feb. 27

Saskatchewan (8-12-0) vs.

#1 Alberta, 7 p.m. Clare Drake Arena

Saturday, Feb. 28

Saskatchewan at Alberta, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 29

Saskatchewan at Alberta, 2 p.m.
(if necessary)



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Point-counterpoint: NLL team in Edmonton

It's high time for Edmonton lacrosse

Sure Dave, that's bound to succeed



DAVE
BERRY

Point



ROSS
MOROZ

Counterpoint

Like it or not, Edmonton is a sports town. We love our Oilers to the tune of 15 000 season tickets sold and our Grey Cup-winning Eskimos draw the largest crowds in the CFL. Hell, our freakin' motto is "The City of Champions." You think that refers to our award-winning theatre productions?

Which is why it's so confusing that it's taken us this long to pick up an National Lacrosse League team. In many ways, an NLL franchise—the Skybrickskilling Icehewknem, perhaps—is the perfect fit for Edmonton's sports fans.

First of all, lacrosse is Canada's second national sport. While we're sports-crazy, we're also a patriotic lot, and lacrosse ranks right up there with hockey and wacky three-down football. All of the reasons baseball is leaving is because we don't totally buy into the premise of "America's Favorite Pastime." Add to this the fact that lacrosse is also a fairly evenly-paced exciting game, along the lines of basketball, and already we're off to a good start.

Beyond simple excitement, however, we already have a very large lacrosse community in Edmonton. Not only does that give us a natural fanbase, it allows us to sell the team with some homegrown talent. There never was an Edmontonian Trapper player, but half of the current Calgary NLL franchise hails from our fair city, not to mention the others spread around the league. In fact, we could probably field an entire team of Edmonton-born players; how's that for community-involved?

Keeping with that theme, an NLL franchise could give us a more family-friendly, affordable team to go watch on those cold winter nights. Tickets to a Calgary Roughriders game will run you about \$20. Compare that to the Oilers, where the cheapest, nose-bleeding seat in the house is \$36.

What we'd have is a community-oriented, exciting team that you can actually afford to see in person. Where the sweet hell is our team?

Wow, David, I am thoroughly impressed. It is abundantly clear to me that you have a comprehensive understanding of the Edmonton sporting community. Edmontonians will undoubtedly embrace this new face on the sports scene—for evidence we need only to look to the not so distant past.

One need only remember the voraciousness with which Edmontonians continue to support the WHL's Edmonton Ice or the spastic frenzy that accompanied every Edmonton Drillers' playoff run to know that a professional lacrosse team in Edmonton is a fantastic idea. In fact, I would wager that a professional lacrosse team in Edmonton could easily expect as many rabidly devoted followers as basketball's Edmonton Skyhawks or roller hockey's Edmonton Sled Dogs.

This hypothetical Edmonton NLL franchise will certainly benefit from Edmonton's insatiable appetite for sports teams that play in leagues other than the NHL or CFL. A prime example is the consistently high level of fan support that was enjoyed by soccer's Edmonton Brickmen. All Edmontonians feel a certain swelling of pride whenever they recall those fantastic Edmonton Brickmen teams of the eighties. Wayne Gretzky was an alright hockey player, but I am certain that most Edmonton sports fans would agree that it's high time to name a freeway after legendary Brickmen forward Justin Fashanu.

In addition to the fact that Edmonton sports fans have repeatedly demonstrated that they are anything but fickle, our fledgling NLL franchise will no doubt benefit from lacrosse's insane level of popularity in this part of the world. One cannot drive through a residential neighborhood in this town without witnessing scores of children in the street playing road lacrosse. Across this city, children are rushing home from school to practice crosschecking and cradling in hopes of being the next Colin Doyle.

So when Edmonton does get this eagerly anticipated lacrosse team, expect a hell of a party, on the moon, with American President Ralph Nader. And Elvis. Incredibly likely.

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STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

WELLNESS WEEK



The University of Alberta Students' Union and the University of Alberta are proud to present the U of A's first annual Wellness Week. Created as an initiative to communicate the importance of wellness in the University Community, in addition to increasing the exposure of wellness related resources and services on our campus, Wellness Week is devoted to highlighting resources that contribute to maximizing the successes of U of A Students and Staff.

Sunday, March 14

Campus Recreation Old Time Skating Party

2:00 PM Clare Drake Arena

Help us to kick off Wellness Week of the U of A campus! Join the U of A Concert Band for an Old-Time skating Party as they perform LIVE for skaters, family and friends. All are invited to either skate on the ice, and/or participate in fun on-ice activities, or just sit in the stands and enjoy the music. The wonderful atmosphere created by the U of A Concert Band is open for all ages and all abilities of skaters.

Monday, March 15

Campus Bike Launch & U of A President's On the Move Walk

12:00 PM QUAD

Join President Rod Fraser, Students' Union President Mat Brechtel, Chancellor John Ferguson, and Mayor Bill Smith in a three kilometer 30-minute walk around the campus over your lunch break. They will open Wellness Week at 12:00 after which they will walk one direction along the route and all the participants will walk the other direction.

The Body & Mind: A Relaxation Workshop 7:00 PM SUBstage

Join The Peer Nutrition Educators as they discuss "Body Image & Positivity" and health advocate Yvonne Rosenthal as she delivers her talk, "Getting Unstuck & Energized." Stick around at 8:00 for a screening of "Killing Us Softly", a film about body image and the media.

Tuesday, March 16

U of A's Largest Fitness Class 12:30 PM Pavilion

Campus Recreation's team of fitness & dance instructors will lead participants through a fun-filled fitness class that will include a sampling of a variety of activities such as hip hop, kickboxing, belly dancing and more. Everyone is welcome to drop-in. All participants will be eligible to win a variety of great draw prizes that will be given away at the end of the class.

Eating Healthy and Organic 7:00 PM SUBstage

Organic Roots presents a workshop on Eating Healthy and Organic on a student budget, hosted by nutritionist Vicki Russell. Come out for some eats, cooking tips and a good time!

Wednesday, March 17

Participation Stations 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Located throughout campus in various buildings and on green space there will be various chances to engage in a physical activity, pick up some information and interact with various wellness resources.

Tickle Your Funny Bone 7:00PM Powerplant

They say laughter is the best medicine! Watch amateur student comics strut their stuff, while Yuk Yuk's Kerry Unger will close off the night!

Thursday, March 18

Participation Stations 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Just like the day before – all around campus get active and learn to be healthy!

Wellness Fair 8:00 AM Dinwoodie Lounge

Services and organizations that may offer wellness opportunities for students and staff have been invited to book a table at the Wellness Fair to promote themselves and offer wellness resources.

Reinventing Sex for the 21st Century 7:00 PM Location/BA

Reinventing Sex for the 21st Century is a fun and interactive look at how to be a great lover, even if you are abstinent. Hosted by the Peer Health Educators and featuring Judy Hancock, techniques at being healthy sexually as well as having fun will be explored, and everyone is sure to have a great time.

Friday, March 19

12 Hours of Ultimate 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM QUAD

An 12-hour game of Ultimate Frisbee will take place in Quad with teams of 11 people and 4 alternates competing in this recreational sport, fundraising money for KidSport, a local charity that raises funds to help children participate in sports. Everyone on campus is invited to register a team in this tournament. All you need to do is find 15 interested people, fundraise a minimum of \$100 to donate to KidSport, and come out and play one hour of Ultimate Frisbee. Come on out, get active, and raise funds for a great cause.

Keynote Address: Timothy Dewhirst 7:00 PM Dinwoodie Lounge

Keynote Address by Timothy Dewhirst of the University of Saskatchewan will close off Wellness Week. Dewhirst will speak on Big Tobacco, Sponsorship and Universities, a controversial topic as the University of Alberta discusses where tobacco will fit on campus and the roles the campus community will have to play in protecting individual rights while protecting the health of students and staff.

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE

492.4236

President: Mat Brechtel

president@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Academic: Janet Lo

vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President External: Chris Samuel

vp.external@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Operations & Finance: Tyler Botten

vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Student Life: Jadene Mah

vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca

UPCOMING SU EVENTS

Feb 28: Captain Tractor

@ Powerplant

Mar 3: SU General Election

voting day

Mar 4: SU General Election

voting day

Mar 5: Broken Social Scene

w/ The Stills and Raising the Fawns @ Dinwoodie

Mar 5: Melissa Majeau

@ SUBstage

Mar 6: HiLo CD Release Party

@ Powerplant

Mar 13: Warsawpack

w/ guests Nevertheless @ Powerplant

Mar 15: Wellness Week

Campus Bike Launch & U of A On the Move President's Walk

@ 12:00PM Quad

Mar 15: Wellness Week

Relaxation Workshop @ SUBstage

Mar 16: Wellness Week

U of A's Largest Fitness Class

Mar 16: Wellness Week

Wellness Cooking Demonstration @ 7:00PM SUBstage

Mar 17: Wellness Week

Tickle Your Funny Bone @ 7:00PM SUBstage

Mar 18: Wellness Week

Wellness Fair @ Dinwoodie

Mar 18: Wellness Week

Sex Speaker @ SUBstage

Mar 19: Wellness Week

18 Hours of Ultimate & BBQ @ Quad

Mar 19: Wellness Week

Keynote Speaker @ Dinwoodie

Mar 27: Alex Murdoch CD Release Party

w/ guests Stew Kirkwood and Monique Laflamme

@ Powerplant



Jennifer Willson & Rae-Anne Hilsentger

INTRODUCING THE ATHLETICS CAMPUS PROMOTIONS COORDINATORS!

Who they are: Rae-Anne Hilsentger & Jennifer Willson

What they do: They work together with the Students Union and Athletics to promote the Golden Bears and Pandas on campus. Together they co-ordinate promotions around campus and at games each weekend.

Where you'll find them: Hanging out in SUB, our second home, running promotions and keeping up with the daily joys of being a student on campus!

Why You'll Love them: They can always be seen with a smile on their faces whatever they may be doing. Check them out... they are always giving away free tickets!

Some upcoming Athletics events:

Pandas Hockey Canada West Championship

Clare Drake Arena

Friday 7pm, Saturday 7pm, Sunday at 2pm (if necessary)

Pandas Volleyball Canada West Championship

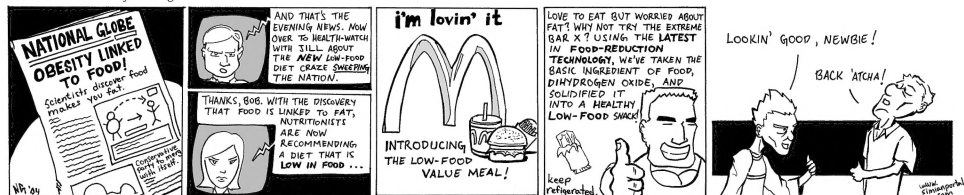
Main Gym

Friday 6pm (UBC vs. Calgary), Friday 8pm (Alberta vs. Manitoba, Saturday 6pm Bronze Medal Game, Saturday 8pm Gold Medal Game

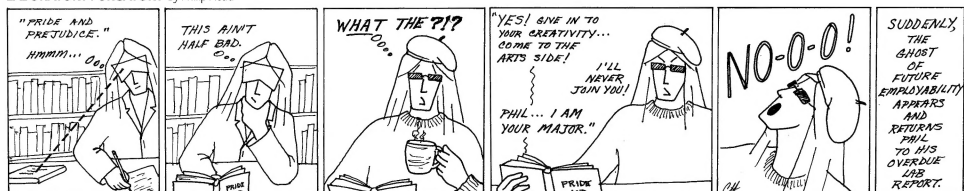
Great prizes given away at each Golden Bears and Pandas home game! Bear Essentials: Burger & Beverage at RATT, and Ticket to the Game for the whopping great deal of only \$7!

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COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



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SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED by Jake Troughton and Caitlin Crawshaw



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Purple is my favorite color. My mommie says I'm special. Ooooh... it's sparkly AND shiny!

Juga! I DO NOT smell! You must be mistaking my smell with your own watched scent. But whatever... I'm telling mommie! You're so in trouble now! Hah hah - Princess smells like flowers! Myrabelle. Julia/Pam Campus Recommendation of the Week eat at Academy Pizza in HUB.

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